

“The Heartbeat Of The Church!”
1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

Introduction:

1. If Someone Had The Choice, Would They Want To Become A Part Of Your Family?
 - If The Adoption Process Was Reversed, Would A Child Want You?
 - **IE:** Sometimes As A Child, I Wished I Could Be A Part Of Some Of My Friends’ Families – Usually Very Selfish Reasons – Like Their Food / Money / Toys & Games!
 - But As I Got To Know Their Families Better, I Was Always Happy To Come Home & To Be A Part Of My Own Family!
 - Because I Knew That No Matter What, I Had Something More Important!
 - The Love Of My Family!
2. But What About Our Church?
 - If Someone Had The Choice, Would They Want To Become A Part Of Our Family Here?
 - A Church Is A Family!
 - And Like A Family, Love Is To Be At The Center Of It!
 - But Without Love, Would Anyone Want To Become A Part Of This Family?
3. In 1 Thessalonians 4, Paul Has Already Written About How We Ought To Deal With The Wrong Kinds Of Relationships In The Church (By Being Holy) – Now, He Shows Us What We Need For The Right Kind Of Relationship – As A Family! That Is:

*** Love – Is To Be The Heartbeat Of Our Church!**

- And In 4:9-12, Paul Shows Us Why:

1. Because Love Is Natural To Every Christian!

- 4:9 - “But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another!”
- Is Love As Natural For You As The Beating Of Your Heart?
 - Your Heart Is A Muscle That Pumps Life-Sustaining Blood Throughout Your Body - It Is An Involuntary Muscle - Not Directly Controlled By Your Will! It Is Natural For A Living Person’s Heart To Beat! It Is Natural For A Christian’s Heart To Love!
- Love Did Not Need To Be Taught By Paul! (4:9a)
 - Because Love Is Natural To A Christian!
 - 1st Word For Love - Philadelphia!
 - Describes A Natural, Family Kind Of Love!
 - Used Also In 1 Peter 1:22 - “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit **unto unfeigned love of the brethren**, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently!”
 - Love Is A Natural Response To Being Saved!
- Because Love Has Been Taught By God! (4:9b)
 - You Have Been “God-Taught” - Unique Word In NT!
 - Love Between Christians Has Been Directly Taught By God Into The Heart Of Every Believer!
 - Will Be A Natural Instinct!
 - “Love Was Engraved On Their Heart!” (Calvin)
 - 2nd Word For Love - Agape!
 - Describes A Love That:
 - Comes From God & Is Like God!
- Do You Have A Love That Is Natural & Involuntary?
 - Especially Toward Your Church?
- Love Is To Be The Heartbeat Of Our Church!

2. Because Love Will Spread From Every Christian!

- 4:10a - “And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia!”
- Is Love Spreading From You As The Blood Being Pumped Out From Your Heart?
 - Your Heart Has A Big Job! There Are Between 60,000 - 100,000 Miles Of Blood Vessels To Get The Blood Where It Needs To Go! And, If Certain Parts Of Your Body Aren’t Getting The

- Blood You Need, New Veins Can Grow To Get It There! (Process Of Angiogenesis)
 - Love Will Spread From Christian To Christian – And Find Ways To Show It & Spread It!
- It Will Spread Actively! Within Your Church!
 - “Ye **Do** It!” – Pointing Back To “Philadelphia!”
 - 1 John 3:18 - “My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth!”
 - How Does This Kind Of Love Act?
 - Christian Love Forgives! Colossians 3:13-14 - “Forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. / And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness!”
 - Christian Love Forbears! Ephesians 4:2 - “Forbearing one another in love!”
 - Christian Love Favors! 1 Thessalonians 5:13 - “Esteem them very highly in love!”
 - Christian Love Fellowships! Colossians 2:2 - “Being knit together in love!”
 - Christian Love Fulfills (Needs)! Galatians 5:13 - “By love serve one another!”
 - Is This How Your Love Acts?
- It Will Spread Comprehensively!
 - “All”- Not A Selective Love!
 - “You Can’t Chose Your Family!”
 - But God Has Chosen Your Family – This Family – For You! To Learn Who / How / When To Love!
 - Love Should Know No Boundaries!
 - **IE:** “Doctors Without Borders” - Relief Organization For Doctors & Nurses To Help In Other Countries - But They Still Have A Practice At Home!
- Do You Have A Love That Is Spreading?
 - In An Active & Comprehensive Way? Within This Church?
- Love Is To Be The Heartbeat Of Our Church!

3. ***Because Love Is The Responsibility Of Every Christian!***

- 4:10b-11 - “But we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more; / And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you!”
- Do You Realize That You Have A Responsibility To Love Those Within Your Church?
 - **IE:** Just Like The Each Of Your Organs Has A Different Responsibility - Your Lung’s Responsibility Is To Breathe - Your Brain’s Responsibility Is To Think - Your Heart’s Responsibility Is To Pump!
 - Your Responsibility Is To Love Each Other!
- Love Is A Personal Responsibility!
 - Paul Wrote: “We Beseech **You!**”
 - Each Of Us Has This Responsibility!
 - And Each Of Us Has Much More Room To Grow Here! Don’t We! To “Increase More And More!”
 - There Is No Limit To How Much Your Love Can Grow!
- Love Is A Passionate Responsibility!
 - There Is No Greater Responsibility Than To Love One Another As Christ Has Loved Us!
 - Verse 11 Seems To Dive Off Into Another Direction, But It Is Very Closely Related To Our Responsibility To Love!
 - “Study To Be Quiet!”
 - “Study” - Not Like A Book Worm, But Like A Business Executive Striving To Climb To The Top Of The Corporate Ladder! An Ambition! But What Kind Of Ambition? “To Be Quiet!”
 - How Many Have This Kind Of Ambition?
 - Most Of Us Always Have Something To Say! Usually Too Much!
 - Another Word For This Would Be “Meekness!”
 - And When You Are Meek, And Strive To Control How You Respond & What You Say, You Show A Lot Of Love!
 - Need To Get Passionate About This Kind Of Love!
- Love Is A Practical Responsibility!

- “Do Your Own Business!” / “Work With Your Own Hands!”
- Already Seen: Love Is Your Business / Responsibility!
 - And You Need To Get Busy Showing Your Love Toward Each Other! It Is A Command!
- Love Is Your Greatest Spiritual Duty Toward Each Other!
 - Are You Taking Your Responsibility Seriously?
- Love Is To Be The Heartbeat Of Our Church!

4. *Because Love Is Important For Every Christian!*

- 4:12 - “That ye may walk honestly (honorably) toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing!”
- Is Loving One Another As Important To You As Your Heart Is?
 - The Heart Is A Vital Organ! Without It, Or Something Doing Its Job, You Will Die! One The Most Expensive Medical Conditions In The United States Is Heart Disease! Nearly \$50 Billion Every Year To Treat! That’s OK - Because Its Important!
 - You & I Must Realize How Vitally Important Love Is For Our Church!
- It Is Vital For Your Witness! (4:12a)
 - If You Do Not Love Or Show Love Within Your Church, There Is Much More At Stake Than Personal Relationships Or Hurt Feelings!
 - It Is “The Credit Of The Christian Name Outside Of The Church!” (Lillie)
 - Without This Kind Of Love Toward Each Other **Inside** The Church, We Are Giving Those **Outside** The Church Reasons To Criticize & Reject Our Savior!
 - Seen This First Hand!
 - Love Is Essential For Our Witness!
- It Is Vital For Your Growth! (4:12b)
 - When You Demonstrate This Love To Each Other, You Will “Have Lack Of Nothing!” – You Will Grow!
 - Without Love, You Cannot Grow!
 - Without Love, You Are Not Growing! No Matter What You Might Think Or Feel Or See!
 - 2 Peter 1:7-9 - “And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins!”
 - Love Is Essential For Our Growth!
- And It Is More Important Than Anything You Might Spend For Your Health!
 - Because, Love Is To Be The Heartbeat Of Our Church!

Conclusion:

1. And I’m Very Concerned That It’s Not!
 - Paul Said That He Didn’t Even Need To Write To Them About Brotherly Love!
 - Could He Have Said That About Us? About You?
2. Is Your Love For Each Other:
 - Natural? Spreading?
 - Do You See It As:
 - Your Responsibility? And As Vitally Important?
3. Make Sure That Every Beat Of Your Heart In This Church Is One That Spurts Out Love!

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