

*Paul's Letter to the  
Church at Thessalonica*



# I Thessalonians





**You shall  
have no  
other gods  
before Me**

**To serve a  
living and  
true God**





**You shall  
have no  
other gods  
before Me**

**How you  
ought to  
walk and  
please God**







# *Loving 'Commendments'*

1 Thess. 4:9-12



# 1 Thess. 4:9-12

1. Keep on Loving
2. Calm Down
3. Mind Your Own Business
4. Get Busy
5. And Here's Why





# 1. Keep on Loving

- Commendation!

- We don't have anything to add
- You are taught by God (see 3:12-13)
- You're doing it!
- Just don't be satisfied with that (see 4:1)
  - Urge: *exhort, encourage, (comfort)*





# 1. Keep on Loving

- Excel still more
  - *Abound* (see 3:12; 4:1)
    - Jesus is causing it, to *fix* in holiness
    - This is how He brings about the *life* He came to give (see John 10:10)





# 1. Keep on Loving

- Part of how to please God (4:1)
  - Loving is being like God, which pleases Him (1 John 4)
- Part of freedom in Christ (Gal. 5:13-15)
  - *Through love serve one another*





## 2. Calm Down

- Lead a quiet life
  - Quiet: *still, peace, silence, rest*
  - Irony: *Strive eagerly to live a calm life*
- Why were some agitated?
  - Affliction / oppression? (3:3-4)
  - Second coming? (see 4:13-5:11)





## 2. Calm Down

- Lead a quiet life
  - Quiet: *still, peace, silence, rest*
    - Strive for a peaceful, tranquil life
    - Rest in God – take Him at His Word
    - There's no need to be restless, excited, agitated, or offended





## 2. Calm Down

- Quit the Drama!
  - *Drama* = desire for some crisis, some affront, some slight, some conflict, etc., to use as a tool against others
- Rom. 12:14-21



**GET OVER YOURSELF!**



## 2. Calm Down

- What's the fruit of the Spirit?
  - *Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control*
  - If your life is crazy, maybe you're not walking by the Spirit (Gal. 5:19-23)





### 3. Mind Your Own Business

- *To do one's own*
  - *Take care of your own affairs*
    1. Don't be a **mooch**: if you are fulfilling your responsibilities you will not be a burden to someone else





### 3. Mind Your Own Business



- *To do one's own*
  - *Take care of your own affairs*
    1. Don't be a **mooch**
  - There is a good *self-sufficiency* (Phil. 4:11; 2 Cor. 9:8; 1 Tim. 6:6)
    - Sharing – Acts 4:34-35; Eph. 4:28
      - Implies asking (both ways)



### 3. Mind Your Own Business

- *To do one's own*
- *Take care of your own affairs*

2. Don't be a **meddler**: if you are busy doing what you should you won't have time to stick your nose into someone else's affairs





### 3. Mind Your Own Business

- *To do one's own*
  - *Take care of your own affairs*

#### 2. Don't be a **meddler**

- E.g. – 1 Tim. 5:13-14
- Proper balance – Phil. 2:4
- Sin requires action – Matt. 18:15-35;  
1 Cor. 5; Col. 3:16; 2 Thess. 3:6-15





## 4. Get Busy

- Work with your hands
  - Manual labor (i.e. – *don't be idle*)
  - Why were some idle?
    - Affliction / oppression? (3:3-4)
    - Second coming? (see 4:13-5:11)
    - Culture? (see Acts 17:21)





## 4. Get Busy

- Work with your hands
  - Manual labor (i.e. – *don't be idle*)
    - Paul's example (2:9-10)
    - Paul's instruction (5:14; 2 Thess. 3:6-15)
      - *Instruct or warn those who are neglectful of their duties; keep away from them*





## 5. And Here's Why

- Just as we commanded you
  - *Charges, orders, instructions* (4:2)
  - Part of walking to pleasing God (4:1)
    - To God's glory (1 Cor. 10:31)
    - Word hard! (cf. Col. 3:22-25)





## 5. And Here's Why

### 1. So that you behave properly

- Behave: *walk, conduct* (2:12, 4:1)
- Properly: *orderly, decently, in good fashion; i.e. - decorum, propriety*
- Toward outsiders – we represent Christ and the gospel (1 Tim. 3:7; Titus 2; 1 Pet. 2:12)





## 5. And Here's Why

2. So that you will not be in need

- Undue or unnecessary burden on others
- THERE ARE LEGITIMATE NEEDS! (2 Cor. 8)
- Cannot be idle, lazy, imposing
- Leon Morris: "...he is making the point that the Christian cannot be a parasite."





# So What?

- God's invitation to *real life*
  - Holiness, love, peace, industry, sharing, ...
- Looking for ways to *excel still more* in love?
- What needs to change to *quit the crazy*?
  - Focus, desires, attitude? Trust, rest?





# So What?

- Am I *busy* or a *busy-body*?
- Do I think about non-believers and look for opportunities?
- Am I serving any other gods, or seeking to please the living and true God in everything?

