

WHAT TO DO ABOUT ONE ANOTHER

TEXT: I THESSALONIANS 4:9-12

INTRO:

- One of the most difficult areas in the Christian life is this matter of our personal relationships with each other.
- Perhaps it is because we expect so much from each other and others expect so much of us, and when these expectations are not met, it is easy for us to become disappointed with each other.
- These are difficult days in which we live and need each other.
- But what can we do with each other?
- What are we to do with each other?

A. Paul makes three statements to the Church of the Thessalonians.

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| 1. I Thess. 4:9 | <i>"love one another"</i> |
| 2. I Thess. 4:18 | <i>"comfort one another"</i> |
| 3. I Thess. 5:11 | <i>"edify one another"</i> |

B. We are under obligation to our Heavenly Father by virtue of our faith in the Lord Jesus and our union together with Him in the Household of Faith.

1. To love one another.
2. To comfort one another.
3. To edify one another.

I. WE ARE TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER

A. A Comandment to be obeyed:

- John 15:12-14,17

1. Enabled by the indwelling Spirit.

Rom. 5:5 - "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."

2. Our love is to be in relation to His love as like no man.

a. The standard is not because of, or in order that, or in return for.

b. The standard is His love for me equals, Redeeming love, Forgiving love, Living love.

c. Evidence of our salvation.

1 John 3:14 - "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death."

d. Evidence disciples of Christ.

John 13:34-35 - "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

- Comment: Not the case in alot independent Bible Believing Baptist Chruches when the lost look at us up close, alot time what they see backbiting, backstabbing, anything but love. What a poor testimony.
- Paul said without charity the work of the church profiteth nothing and the individual Christian profiteth nothing.
- It is great to study the Bible, know the Bible - See What Paul said SEE I Cor. 13:2-3.

B. Covering to be offered.

- I Peter 4:8 - "And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins."

- often time, we rejoice when a brother or sister falls. sometime need to cover ^{with} charity instead cover with criticism.

1. I am to seek your best interest and you mine.
 2. I am to read the best interpretation upon your conduct and upon what you say. - Give you the benefit of the doubt.
- C. Continue to be observed.

• Heb. 13:1 - "Let brotherly love continue."

1. Christian love must not degenerate into a mere pious emotion. It must be expressed in a practical concern.
2. Are you a thermostat or a thermometer?
 - a. A thermometer will only reflect the circumstances in which it finds itself.
 - b. A thermostat not only reflects the environment, it changes the environment. It is going to bring that environment under a predesigned conformity.
 - c. Conformity ^{which says} - I am going to love you when you are unloveable.

II. WE ARE TO COMFORT ONE ANOTHER.

I THESS. 4:18

A. When sorrow is the strongest: We comfort by expressing our sympathy.

1. Sympathy - to feel together.
 2. Compassion - to suffer with. - Cry + weep
 3. SEE II Cor. 1:3-4.
- God puts us through stuff so we can comfort others.

*Jesus wept
John 11:35
- with
Mary +
marta
over their
brother
Lazarus.*

B. When doubt is the deepest; we can comfort by explaining the scriptures.

- SEE ROM. 10:17
- Going over the promises of God. e.g. "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" Heb. 13:5.

C. When Faith is the faintest: We comfort by exalting the Saviours. - His return - I Thess. 4:18.

III. EDIFY ONE ANOTHER - I THESS. 5:11

A. Edify means to build-building of a life. Build up one another in faith.

- Edify found three times in Eph. 4.

B. In this matter of the building process we must get to know one another.

C. We are edified.

1. Through leadership - Eph 4:11-12
2. Through inter-relationships - working together - Eph. 4:16
3. Through our conversation. - Eph. 4:29

*- Pastors + leadership of church to build up
Evangelists
Pastors, + Teachers - for edifying building of members*

- example - tract passing