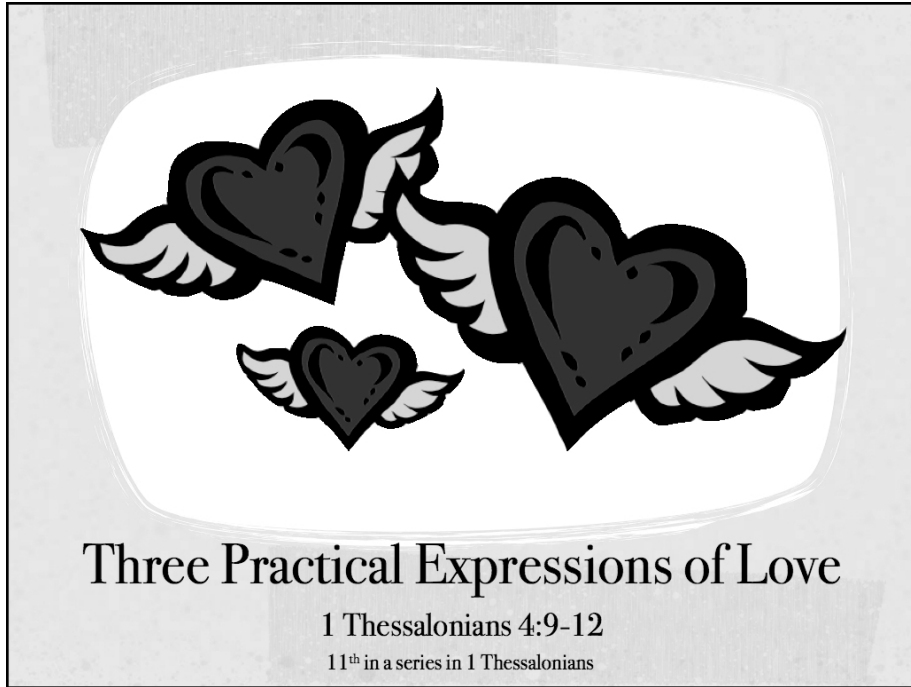


Daily Bible Study Guide for June 22–27, 2009



⁹ Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; ¹⁰ for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more, ¹¹ and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you, ¹² so that you will behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need. 1 Thessalonians 4:9–12

“Love” is a word we use all the time, but what does that word really mean? Does “I love ice cream” carry the same significance as “I love you”? Does the love we share for one another as members of God’s family mean the same thing as the love we have for a neighbor or a spouse (if we have one)?

This week we will learn more about the meaning of love, and more importantly, how to express love in meaningful ways.

Monday, June 22

Read: 1 Thessalonians 4:9–12

1. How do you suppose God taught these people to love one another?

2. How do you think Paul knew that the people in Thessalonica loved other Christians in Macedonia (Philippi, Berea, etc.)?

3. In what three ways (in verse 11) could the Thessalonians “excel still more”?

4. Why do you think Paul chose these behaviors as ways of showing love for other people?

5. Discussion/Application: What is the point of 1 Thessalonians 4:9–12?

Tuesday, June 23

Read: 1 Thessalonians 4:9–12

1. “The love of the brethren” (the Greek word is “philadelphia”) is different from the other word translated “love” (“agape”—unconditional love). Why do you think Paul would use two different “love” words in this sentence?

2. Which word, if either, is more important, and why?

3. What do you think is the relationship between these two kinds of love?

4. How many times is the word “brethren” found in these verses? What is the point Paul is making by repeating this word?

5. Discussion/Application: How does the way we relate to one another in the Church affect those who are not a part of the Church?

Wednesday, June 24

Read: 2 Peter 1:2–9

1. What, according to verses 2–3, is required for godly living?

2. What do you know about the promises mentioned in verse 4?

3. The last two qualities in verses 5–7 are the same two kinds of love we looked at earlier in the week (philadelphia and agape). How can we progress from brotherly love to unconditional love?

4. Why, according to verse 8, is it important to see the kind of spiritual progress revealed in this passage?

5. Discussion/Application: What is the problem that causes people to not make this kind of spiritual progress?

Thursday, June 25

Read: 1 Thessalonians 4:11 “Make it your ambition to lead a **quiet** life.” The verses below (printed for you) have the same word in bold print. Read the surrounding verses, if needed, and then write down why each person or group remained **quiet**.

1. But they kept **silent**. And He took hold of him and healed him, and sent him away. Luke 14:4

2. Then they returned and prepared spices and perfumes. And on the Sabbath they **rested** according to the commandment. Luke 23:56

3. When they heard this, they **quieted down** and glorified God, saying, “Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life.” Acts 11:18

4. And since he would not be persuaded, we **fell silent**, remarking, “The will of the Lord be done!” Acts 21:14

5. Discussion/Application: Based on what you learned today, what do you think it means to lead a quiet life?

Friday, June 26

Read: 1 Thessalonians 4:11. “Attend to your own **business**.” The verses below have the same word in bold print. Read the surrounding verses, if needed, and then write down why each person or group attended to their own **business**.

1. And some tax collectors also came to be baptized, and they said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Collect no more than what you have been **ordered** to.” Luke 3:12–13

2. If I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not **preach** the gospel. For if I **do this** voluntarily, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have a stewardship entrusted to me. 1 Corinthians 9:16–17

3. The deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who **practice** such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. Galatians 5:19–21

4. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, **practice** these things, and the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:9

5. Discussion/Application: Based on what you learned today, what do you think it means to attend to your own **business**?

Saturday, June 27

Read: 1 Thessalonians 4:11 “**Work** with your hands.” The verses below have the same word in bold print. Read the surrounding verses, if needed, and then write down why each person or group **worked**.

1. Many will say to Me on that day, “Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?” And then I will declare to them, “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who **practice** lawlessness.” Matthew 7:22–23

2. I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the man who fears Him and **does** what is right is welcome to Him. Acts 10:34–35

3. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my own needs and to the men who were with me. In everything I showed you that by **working hard** in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” Acts 20:35

4. The Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath. But He answered them, “My Father is **working** until now, and I Myself am **working**.” John 5:16–17

5. Discussion/Application: Based on what you learned today, what do you think it means to **work**?
