

*“A Continuing Plea for a Valid Principle: A Plea for Love”*

*1 Thess. 4:9-12*

*The Sufficiency of His Grace for the Sustaining of His Suffering People*

Paul continues to instruct the people in order to “complete what is lacking in their faith.” Already we have noted his plea for living morally pure as the people of God; now he turns his attention toward love. Because of the language used by Paul, I do not believe these were areas of deficiency, but rather areas of ignorance. They were obeying, so Paul was simply encouraging them to increase and continue.

Why does Paul put his exhortation in the bedrock of positional truth? Why does he say, “Do this more, even though you are already?”

I. Christ living is God-taught loving (v.9).

We know the verse, but do we know what is biblical love? I am not so much concerned with the dictionary definition of love as I am with what love truly looks like. The believer is exhorted to continue in the love of Christ (John 15:9, 12, 17).

II. The believers were manifesting love (v.10).

III. Displaying a global-impacting, grace-based love (v.11)

A. A global-impacting, grace-based love is in studying to be quiet.

B. A global-impacting, grace-based love does its own business.

C. A global-impacting, grace-based love works with its own hands.

Love does not speak ill of people; love does not pry into other people’s business; and love does not become a burden to others. Love is neither negative nor destructive. Love is positive and constructive. Love offers solutions to problems and answers to questions. Love is always focused on others.

Why does Paul make these requests (v.12)?

1. In order that we may behave properly toward outsiders with the purpose of winning their respect.

2. In order that we may have lack of nothing.