



Our church would be better if we only...

The one thing I wish our church leadership knew is...

John 8:31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue **(abide) in My word**, then you are truly disciples of Mine; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ❤️ R

John 13:34 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have **love** for **one another**.” ❤️ R

John 15:7 “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 My Father is glorified by this, that you **bear much fruit**, and so prove to be My disciples.” ❤️ R

Love One
Another
1 Thes. 4:9-12



God's: Fellow Workers

Faith: Stand Firm

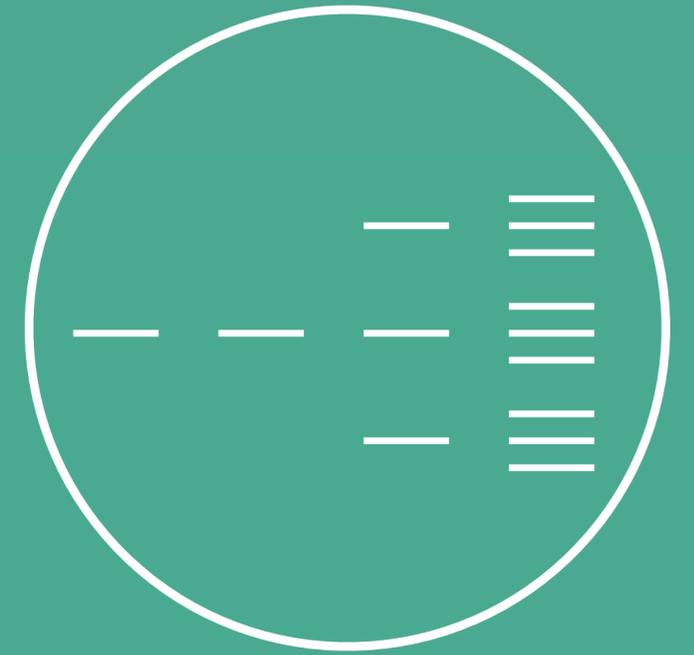
Increase & Abound

Sanctification & Honor

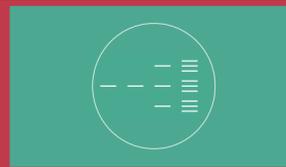
Authority — Abstain from Sexual Immorality — The Holy Spirit

Love One Another

Taught by God — Affirmation/Practice — Ambitious Work



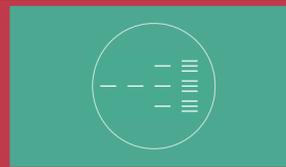
Sanctification & Honor



1 Thessalonians 4:1 Finally then, **brethren**, we **request** and **exhort** you in the Lord Jesus, that as you **received** from us ***instruction*** as to how you ought to **walk** and **please** God (just as you **actually do walk**), that you **excel** still more.

2 For you **know** what **commandments** we gave you by the ***authority*** of the Lord Jesus. 3 For this is **the will of God**, your **sanctification**; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in **sanctification** and **honor**,

Sanctification & Honor



1 Thessalonians 4:5 not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; 6 and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly **warned** you. 7 For **God** has not **called us** for the **purpose** of impurity, but in **sanctification**. 8 So, he who rejects this is not **rejecting** man but the **God** who gives His **Holy Spirit** to you.

Love One Another

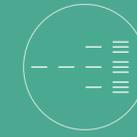


1 Thessalonians 4:9 Now as to the **love of the brethren**, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are **taught by God** to **love one another**; 10 for indeed you do practice it toward all the **brethren** who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, **brethren**, to excel still 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 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**;

- The believers in a church body are a family. (Philadelphia)
- To be “taught by God” assumes the existence of a relationship with God.
- “When I hold my Bible, I feel like I am holding the hand of Jesus because it is how I know Jesus.” Robert Coleman
- Learn a sacrificial love from the example of Jesus who gave His life for others. (Agape)



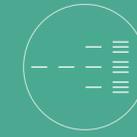
1 Thessalonians 4:10a for indeed you do practice it toward all the **brethren** who are in all Macedonia.

- Model, PRACTICE, Evaluate
- AFFIRMATION, Accountability
- The Thessalonians church was wealthy by implication
- Known as His disciples by your love for one another



1 Thessalonians 4:10b 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.

- Be careful about false finish lines... affirmation... but...
- Think BIG about God can use your life... bit by bit...
- Do your part... contribute... work...
- Your financial behavior says a lot to each other & the lost.
- Your business is not just your business.



Practical Application:

- Ask yourself, **am I letting God walk around in my life?** (Am I being taught by God? Is God my authority/Lord?)
- Ask yourself, **am I letting another believer or other believers walk around in my life?** (Is someone encouraging/affirming me? Is someone admonishing/pushing me?)
- Ask yourself, **am I letting the lost walk around in my life?** (Am I perceived as a selfish consumer/a generous contributor?)



Practical Application:

- Ask yourself, how do I define success? Do you define success by accumulating wealth or **serving others**?
- Ask yourself, why do I do what I am doing or how do I decide what I do?
- Ask yourself, am I looking through a **kingdom lens** or an earthly lens?