



I THESSALONIANS

Part Forty-Four: "Excellence in Brotherly Love, Part 3"

I Thessalonians 4:12 *That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.*

Review:

1. **Impulse:** the church of Thessalonica demonstrated that they had had a desire to learn how to love. 9.

2. **Improvement:** Paul instructs them in a stronger quality of love. 10-11.

Three Important Steps to Improving the Quality of Your Love

- 1) **Control your spirit.** *study to be quiet*
- 2) **Focus your thoughts.** *do your own business*
- 3) **Operate in self-dependence.** *work with your own hands*

3. **Impact:** as they strengthen their love they will strengthen their ministry. 12.

How Does A Self-Dependent Love Strengthen the Ministry?

a. Self-dependent love gives you a solid testimony and reputation. *That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without*

- 1) The church has the reputation of paying its bills.
- 2) The church has the testimony of being givers, not takers.
- 3) The church has the testimony of being blessed and provided for by God.

b. Self-dependent love enables the church to increase its ministry. *and that ye may have lack of nothing.*

- 1) Because the people themselves will not fail financially.
- 2) Because the church will have sufficient resources.