

# SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

## I Thessalonians 4:9-12

**Ice Breaker:** What's an evidence of God's grace you've seen this week?

**Ice Breaker:** How has God shown his love to you through someone in the church?

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **Context:** What did Paul call the Thessalonian church to pursue in 4:1-8?
2. What is the theme of Paul's instructions in vs. 9-12?
3. Why is love such a foundational element to the Christian life?
4. What are the marks of a church that truly loves one another? How does Christ's love for us influence how we love one another?
5. Why is Paul not content with the love that the Thessalonian church has already displayed?
6. In what ways does Paul encourage them to love one another more and more?
7. How is living a quiet life and minding your own affairs a mark of Christian love? What is Paul pushing against when he encourages them to this type of life?
8. How do we see busybody like behavior within the church that hurts our witness before outsiders?
9. In what ways does our church show the love of Christ to one another that is distinct from the world? In what ways can we grow in love towards one another?
10. How can you (both personally and in your Small Group) love one another and walk properly before outsiders?
11. Take time as a group to read the Member Covenant (see below). Discuss the ways you can hold each other accountable to what we've committed to live out together.

## MEMBER COVENANT

Having been led by the Holy Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the public confession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, solemnly and joyfully endeavor to keep the spirit of this covenant as one body in Christ.

We purpose, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and love; to promote its fruitfulness and spirituality; to attend its services regularly; to sustain its worship, ordinances, and doctrines; to submit to its discipline and the authority of its officers; to give it a sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin; to give faithfully of time and talent in its activities; to contribute cheerfully and regularly, as God has prospered us, to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, to the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel throughout all nations.

We also purpose to maintain family and private devotion to the Lord; to train our children according to the Word of God; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk carefully in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our conduct; to abstain from all activities, habits, and lifestyles that dishonor our Lord Jesus Christ, cause stumbling to a fellow believer, or hinder the gospel witness; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the cause of Christ, our Savior, and to give Him preeminence in all things.

We further purpose to encourage one another in the blessed hope of our Lord's re-turn; to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feelings and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation.

We moreover purpose that when we leave this church we will as soon as possible unite with another church of like faith where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.