

Attitudes and Actions

[1 Thes.4:9-12]

Sanctified common sense

1 Thes.4:1-8 – obvious danger

1 Thes.4:9-12 – sneaky danger

I. Warm Christians, 9-10

Attitudes and actions toward brethren

- Brotherly love (contrast 3-8)
 - Clan love: Scottish Highlands
 - Paul discusses closer relationship: brothers in the 'household of faith'
- 1 Pt.1:22, *sincere love of brethren*
- 1 Pt.4:8, *fervent love; intense...*
- Ro.12:9, *tender devotion to each other*

“Truth without love is brutality, and love without truth is hypocrisy.”

Attitudes and actions toward brethren

- Brotherly love (contrast 3-8)
- No need to write.
 - We may think 1-8 unnecessary
- Hb.5:12, For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food
 - Children do not learn love automatically

Attitudes and actions toward brethren

- Brotherly love (contrast 3-8)
- No need to write.
- Taught by God. Jn.6:45
 - God teaches us to love one another
 - **Aim:** fellow Christians
 - **Active:** can't merely 'feel' it or 'talk' it (opposite of self-love, 2 Tim.3:2)
 - **Advance:** '*more and more...*'

Attitudes and actions toward brethren

- Brotherly love (contrast 3-8)
- No need to write.
- Taught by God.
- Love one another.
 - Affection is commanded?
 - Ro.12:10
 - Reciprocal ... fervent ... mutual
 - Jn.13:34

John 13:34, *as I have loved you...* How?

- Patient. Long tempered. Lk.9:54-55
- Kind. Lk.22:51
- No envy. Mk.9:38-39
- Humility. Jn.13
- Not rude. Jn.4:...27
- Not selfish. Jn.15:13
- Not provoked. Mk.3:5

John 13:34, *as I have loved you...* How?

- Not think evil. Mk.12:30-31
- No grudges. Lk.23:34
- Not spiteful (rejoice in sin). Lk.19:41-44
- Loves truth (even in opponents). Mk.12:34
- Believes / Hopes for best. Jn.17
- Endures. Jn.12:27-28

Summary of 1 Co.13:4-7

John 13:35, *by this all will know...*

- Do we pass the love test?
- “Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love”
- Without love, all is vain. 1 Jn.4:20-21

Attitudes and actions toward brethren

- Brotherly love (contrast 3-8)
- No need to write.
- Taught by God.
- Love one another.
- Already love others, 10 (1:3)
 - What now? **Abound more and more**
(2 Th.1:3)

Abounding in love

- They are babies, yet think of others...
- Persecuted, hurting, yet no evidence of self-pity
- Show love to all brothers, in Macedonia, 10.
- Increase more and more, 10
 - A debt we always owe. Ro.13:8
 - “I’ve done enough”? Jesus, our example.

The Christian's emphasis: brother-love

- Tertullian: “It is our care for the helpless, our practice of lovingkindness, that brands us in the eyes of many of our opponents.’ ‘Look!’ they say, ‘How they love one another!’ Look how they are prepared to die for one another.”
- They conquered the world, not with fancy buildings or entertaining speakers, but by loving one another.

I. Warm Christians, 9-10

II. Working Christians, 11

Attitudes and actions toward self

- Aim: aspire. Strive eagerly; make it your ambition to lead a quiet life
 - Paradox: *ambitious to be unambitious*
 - First hint of problem: some were not earning their living. (Ep.4:28)
 - Due to speculations about Lord's coming. (Why work?)
 - In meantime, they mooch off brethren

Attitudes and actions toward self

- Aim: aspire.
- **Avoid:** mind your own business . . . do not meddle

Attitudes and actions toward self

- Aim: aspire.
- Avoid: mind your own business ... do not meddle
- **Activate:** work with own hands. 2 Th.3:11
 - Non-workers had time to meddle. Some have talent to boss others . . .
 - 1 Tim.5:13

“If idle hands are devil's workshop,
busy hands are His toolkit.”

- If Christ is coming soon, why work?
- “Own hands” – Ro.16:23

Attitudes and actions toward self

- Aim: aspire.
- Avoid: mind your own business ... do not meddle
- Activate: work with own hands
- Authority: as we commanded you
 - Jn.21:20-22
 - Reminder

I. Warm Christians, 9-10

II. Working Christians, 11

III. **Walking Christians, 12**

Attitudes and actions toward the lost

- Properly: decently, becomingly
 - Opposite of disorderly, 2 Th.3:6

Attitudes and actions toward the lost

- Properly: decently, becomingly
- Toward those who are outside:
 - Col.4:5
 - In one sense, Christians must live without concern for world's opinion.
 - In another sense, must consider effect of our actions on other people.
 - Tit.2:10 . . . Mt.5:16
 - 2 Sm.13:1,4, 15, 'of carnal desire'
 - 1 K.11:1, Solomon

Attitudes and actions toward the lost

- Properly: decently, becomingly
- Toward those who are outside
- That you may lack nothing:
 - 5:14 . . . 2 Th.3:6

Gospel makes us better workers,
nicer people, more valuable friends

We may not get opportunity to study
with friends, but can set an example
of a quiet, industrious life.