

# **“Excelling in the Love of the Brethren”**

## **1 Thessalonians 4:9-12**

- A. No need for a letter (1Th. 4:9-10a).**
- B. More progress can be made (1Th. 4:10b-11).**
- C. The purpose for this lifestyle (1Th. 4:12)**

## A. No need for a letter (1Th. 4:9-10a)

1. (vs. 9) The matter at hand: “Now as to the love of the brethren” –
  - a. “you have no need for *anyone* to write to you”
  - b. And the reason was: “for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another”
2. (vs. 10a) Paul offered further proof that he did not need to write to them about love: “for indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia.”

**B. More progress can be made (1Th. 4:10b-11).**

- 1. (vs. 10b) “But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more,”**
- 2. (vs. 11) Beyond that, Paul said, “to make it your ambition” to do three things:**
  - a. “to lead a quiet life and”**
  - b. “attend to your own business and”**
  - c. “work with your hands” –**
    - This was nothing new but was “just as we commanded you.”**

## C. The two-fold purpose for this lifestyle (1Th. 4:12)

1. (vs. 12a) “so that you will behave properly toward outsiders” – a *testimony* issue
2. (vs. 12b) “and not be in any need” – a *practical* issue.

## Conclusion:

In keeping with the direct teaching of God on the matter, the Thessalonians were doing well in the area of brotherly love both near and far. But they were not yet perfect, so Paul encouraged them “to excel still more.” Moreover, he wanted them to have it as their ambition to do three things; “to lead a quiet life and attend to” their “own business and work with” their “hands,” and all of this was consistent with previous instruction,

“just as” they had been “commanded.” With this sort of discipline being practiced, two purposes would be realized, a proper testimony to the unsaved, *and* the Thessalonians would not be in any need, paying their bills on time. Of course, that carries its own testimony!