"Producing Brotherly Love"
1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

C.I.T.—Spiritual concept of brotherly love requires us to carry our own weight.
C.I.S.—You need to be a ministry producer in order to show brotherly love.
Purpose—I want to challenge our people from becoming lazy spiritually and from being merely ministry consumers.
Introduction—The Church's glue is our lover for one another.

I. ***The Principle of Brotherly Love*** vs 9-10a
   a. Brotherly love
      i. Philew—to love—cherish, warm emotional love for someone
      ii. Adolphos—Brother
      iii. Love within the context of the body of believers, the church
   b. Loving one another
      i. Agape—sacrificial love that meets practical needs
      ii. Within the context of one another/the church
      iii. Extends beyond the local body of believers, but to all believers
   c. Taught by God
      i. No doubt it would have been taught verbally by the Missionaries and taught through Scripture
      ii. But this insinuates an ongoing divine teaching
      iii. The work of the Holy Spirit confirms and teaches that we are to love one another.
   d. This principle of loving one another within the church should be so ingrained within our hearts, that a lack of love would be shocking.
   e. John 13:34-35; Romans 12:10-13;
   f. Illus.—Alumni from a university
   g. Application
      i. We have commonality with all genuine Christian, namely Christ.
      ii. This prompts us to show love to them in very real and practical ways.
      iii. When they have a financial, emotional, spiritual, physical needs, we come along side and serve them and love them.
      iv. One of the great benefits of being a church member is the principle of Brotherly Love.

II. ***The Position of Brotherly Love*** vs. 10b-11
   a. We urge--four infinitives, which serve as imperatives.
   b. Abound even more
      i. brotherly love should grow and develop
      ii. Dynamic principle, never arrive or finish with brotherly love
      iii. It should be an active part of your life.
   c. Live a quiet life
      i. Peaceful life/without drama and difficulty.
      ii. If we are at war within ourselves and in our personal life, we will not have margin or resources to meet the needs of others.
   d. Mind your own business
      i. Stay focused on taking care of you and your life.
      ii. This is in opposition to neglecting your business and paying attention to everyone else's.
      iii. This does nothing to love and serve others, but instead dilutes brotherly love.
   e. Work with your own hands

i. Instead of waiting for someone else to hand something out to you, get to work.
ii. Greco-Roman world felt that the upper crust was too good for work.
iii. Now those who come to Christ believe that the ground at the foot of the cross is level, and we are all upper crust, and don't have to work anymore.

f. All of these fit within what was commanded.
g. Following these commands will keep you from needing brotherly love and will put you in a position to give brotherly love.
h. Illus.—Ready Position in sports
i. Application
i. In order for Brotherly Love to work, people have to be working.
ii. If we are all coming to the church and looking to consume ministry, who will produce it?
iii. But if we all produce it, we will all end up receiving it.

III. ***The Purpose of Brotherly Love*** vs. 12
a. Will not have need—aren't draining.
b. Good reputation among outsiders.
i. When the world looks at the church, we want them to be attracted to our love for one another.
ii. Why would anyone want to be a part of a church full of gossip, backbiting, slander, busybodies, who suck off of the life of others?
iii. Our love for one another will win them and keep them.
c. Illus.—Don't remember my sermon, but remember that I loved them.
d. Application
i. Brotherly love is obedience to God's Word, but also to His Commission.
ii. We will not be able to share the love of Christ with Acadiana if we don't share it with one another.
iii. A church that is diligent loving one another will not have a problem reaching their community for Christ.

Conclusion

- Church=Battleship instead of Cruise Ship
- If we want to be ready for when Christ returns, we should spend our time loving one another.
- We must make a commitment to do so.
- This would require committing to a certain body of believers—church membership.
- This would require committing to a manageable way to express this love—Sunday School Class.
- This would require committing to a specific way to utilize gifts—Ministry Team.
- Do you know someone who needs some brotherly love?
- Why don't you show it.

John 13:34 "I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Romans 12:10 Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not lack diligence in zeal; be fervent in the Spirit; serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; be persistent in prayer. 13 Share with the saints in their needs; pursue hospitality.

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II. The P_____ of Brotherly Love
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