

Be Devoted to One Another

Introduction:

1 Thess 4:1, 9-10 - Paul complimented Thessalonians – and told them to *excel even more*. How is this done? How to take it to next level. We must pursue things that make for peace. See Rom. 12:10; 13; 15-16; 18; 21. How can we improve relationships?

I. What hinders our relationships?

- A. A lack of **hospitality**.
 - 1. Do we have a sense of togetherness?
 - 2. Important! So important it is a command. Rom. 12:13 1 Peter 4:9 – *be hospitable to one another w/o complaint*.
- B. A lack of understanding for those less **mature** in the faith.
 - 1. Remember: we're all growing up in the faith. OR SHOULD BE.
 - a) Eph. 2:10 – created for good works.
 - 2. But...we're all at different maturity levels.
 - a) Col. 2:6-7 – we must put this passage into practice.
- C. A lack of **tolerance** in differing personalities & opinions.
 - 1. We WILL disagree. Natural. Key: not to take it **personally!**
 - 2. Congregations get tore up over jealousy; covetousness; and tastes!
 - 3. Must pursue peace!
 - a) Effort; great effort. (Rom. 12:18)
 - b) Mt. 5:23 – will not worship until straightening out differences w/brother.
 - c) Mt. 18:15-17 – **quickly** goes to bro/sis who has offended him to work out problem.
 - d) Mt. 18:21-22 – will be forgiving of others – even multiple times!
- D. Lack of **compassion** among brethren when troubles come.
 - 1. Gal. 6:1-2 – gentleness; considering self...
 - 2. Heb. 3:12-13 – **anyone** can be hardened through deceitfulness of sin.
 - 3. flip side:
 - a) Find self in trial/trouble – don't play the **self pity** game.

II. We must develop **positive relationships w/each other**.

- A. Rom. 12:10 – **be devoted** to one another.
 - 1. Text suggests strong **warm affection** for brethren. Let's practice that!
- B. Be willing to let the **little** things go.
- C. **Listen**.
- D. Help each other w/our **weaknesses**.

Conclusion:

- A. Most important thing: "How is my relationship with God?"