

## Sermon Text Discussion 10/2/2016

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1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 – “Work and Witness in a Life of Love” by Drew Hunter

### Overview

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For those who have been saved by Christ, the Word of God is clear that there is no part of our lives that isn't fully claimed by God for the sake of his own glory. That means the labor and good works that have been prepared beforehand by God for us to do must be characterized by love. Since love should flavor all that we do, we must answer these three questions about love:

- 1) What is it? (v.9-10)
- 2) What does it look like? (v.11)
- 3) Why does it matter? (v.12)

The world witnesses the love Christians have for others, and when they ask about our motivation they will know that our love originates from God's heart of love on display for us throughout the entirety of God's Word.

### Quotations

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“If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all.”

-J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*, 201

“Our Savior Christ was a carpenter, and got his living with great labor. Therefore let no man disdain to follow him in a common calling and occupation. For as he blessed our nature with taking upon him the shape of man, so in doing he blessed all occupations and arts.”

-Hugh Latimer

Their hearts were framed for love; so that it appears that the Holy Spirit inwardly dictates efficaciously what is to be done, so that there is no need to give injunctions in writing.

–John Calvin

### Understanding & Application

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- 1) What is the connection between our identity in Christ and the command given to love one another?
- 2) What is the connection between adoption and being saved by Christ?
- 3) When Paul instructs the Thessalonians and us to mind our own affairs, he assumes we have affairs to mind. What things are occupying your heart and mind right now? Are these things honoring to the Lord and useful for the building up of the body?
- 4) How do you bring honor to God through the work you do as an employee? As a volunteer? As a parent? Sibling? Care-taker? Neighbor?
- 5) Are you giving of your resources (time, money, emotional support) in a way that is generous to others around you who are in need?
- 6) Our self-sacrificial love for others is a direct indication of how we've been moved by the self-sacrificial love God has for us. How well does your love for others reflect God's great love for you?
- 7) What one thing will you intentionally do to show love for someone else this week?