

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 Part 5

Richard Cimino  
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**1 Thessalonians 4:1-12**

**A Life That Pleases God pt.5 — The  
Essence of Abounding Love**

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Related Topics: Spiritual Challenges;  
Abounding; The Christian Walk; Pleasing  
God; The Will of God; Sanctification;  
Holiness; Sexual Sin; Sexual Purity; Taught  
by God; Brotherly Love; the Essence of  
Love; Godly Ambition; Hard work; An  
Orderly life;

This fourth chapter is all about A LIFE  
THAT PLEASES GOD

- How to walk in agreement with God
- How to walk in faith
- And to be ABOUNDING more and more in it.

The Holy Spirit doesn't leave the 1st Century Christians or us with any question as to what that looks like; [1 Thes 4:3](#) "THIS is the will of God"

[1 Thes 4:9](#) "Now"

This is one of those small, but important words in Scripture. Here it marks a transition. Paul is going to continue to define for the Thessalonians the LIFE THAT PLEASES GOD. The word NOW marks the transition from the subject of sanctification and sexual purity to the topic of sanctification and love.

[1 Thes 4:9](#) *Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another,*

TAUGHT BY GOD = Divinely instructed

**FIRST**

Divinely instructed by virtue of the New Birth. A Christian is a partaker in the very life and nature of God.

[1 John 3:9](#) ..... *God's seed abides in him..... he has been born of God.*  
[1 John 4](#) - *God IS love*

**SECOND**

Divinely instructed by virtue of the indwelling person and power of the Holy Spirit.

**THIRD**

Divinely instructed by virtue of the Word of God. Specifically, by the command and example of Jesus.



## CRUCIAL INSIGHT:

This love that pleases God, God TEACHES us to walk in, commands us walk in, was modeled for us in Jesus. This Love is SEPARATE FROM, OTHER THAN, UNLIKE any love that the world has to offer.

In this morning's study, we are going to examine carefully just what this love looks like.

*1 Cor. 13:4-8* Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

We have before us in these verses what we might call the essence of true love. Webster defines essence as the indispensable or intrinsic properties that characterize or identify something. Here in 1 Cor. 13, the Holy Spirit does something very much like passing light through a prism. When you pass light through a prism it is split into many colors. Here in 1 Cor. 13 the Holy Spirit shines God's love through a heavenly prism and we are able to see the essential and indispensable properties of this love that we should be abounding more and more in.

As we see, the essence of God's love through the prism of 1 Cor. 13 we need to grasp a critical truth. Without these properties you cannot have true love. We will see that this passage is full of Greek verbs. A verb is an action word.

Don't miss this, God's love is much more than a feeling word. It is an action word. Therefore, love is only fully love when it acts. Paul's purpose in 1 Thessalonians 4 and 1 Cor. 13 is not just to enhance their knowledge, but their living habits.

**QUOTE:** When a man opens the car door for his wife you can be sure that either the car is new or the wife is new.....

**QUOTE:** Love = to live for.

*1 John 3:18* My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

*1 Cor 13:4* Love is patient (suffers long)

- to be of a long spirit, not to lose heart
- to persevere patiently and bravely in enduring misfortunes and troubles
- to be patient in bearing the offenses and injuries of others

Life presents us with many wrongs done to us.

- Wronged by dishonesty of others. Example: People make promises they fail to keep.
- Wronged by the tongues of others. Example: Saying things not completely false but exaggerating the worst part of the truth... to make you look bad.
- Wronged by the attitudes of others. Example: There are those who don't say too much to others but are always thinking the worst about you and when they do say something it is very poisonous.
- Wronged by the deeds of others. Example: Selfish people around you ... very thoughtless as to how their actions harm you. Those who always want their own way are big offenders here! They are constantly refusing to apologize after they have wronged you

## NOTE:

I could go on and on, but these are wrongs that every Christian is going to face on an on going basis!

To abound in love more and more means to be longsuffering. TO BE LONGSUFFERING in the face of all of this. Is to be THE PERSON WHO DOES NOT SEEK TO RETALIATE AGAINST OTHERS.

**QUOTE:**

JOHN CHRYSOSTOM (4th cent) — *the early church father "it is a word used of the man who is wronged and who has it easily in his power to avenge himself but will never do it"*

**KEY QUESTION:** HOW can I love like this?

Remember, we learned in our last study that love abounds more and more in our knowledge of the Word.

1.) FIND YOUR COMFORT IN THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

*[Romans 8:28](#) And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*

2.) FIND YOUR SECURITY IN THE FAIRNESS OF GOD

*[Romans 12:17-19](#) 17Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. 18If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."*

*And yesterday's Bible Bus, [Psalm 9:4,7-8](#) 4you have sat on the throne, giving righteous judgment.... 7 But the Lord sits enthroned forever; he has established his throne for justice,8 and he judges the world with righteousness; he judges the peoples with uprightness.*

3.) FIND YOUR EXAMPLE IN THE WORD OF GOD. EXAMPLE: God the Father.

*[2 Peter 3:9](#) The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

#### **APPLICATION:**

Longsuffering is often key element in leading others to Christ. They are often testing you most when they are becoming most interested. Often the witness of love in the face of wrong is just what a person needs to really soften their heart.

#### **EXAMPLE:**

Stephen at his death. It has been well said "the church owes the conversion of Paul to the death of Stephen"

*[1 Cor. 13:4](#) Love is patient and kind;*

"KIND" - LIT "useful serving and gracious... it carries the thought of active goodwill." God's LOVE not only feels generous .... it is generous. It was once quoted, "Kindness is a language the dumb can speak, the deaf can hear, and the blind can see." Kindness is an indispensable and intrinsic property of God's love.

#### **EXAMPLE:**

Paul writes of the kindness of God in drawing men to salvation.

*[Romans 2:4](#) 4Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?*

#### **EXAMPLE:**

Paul writes of the kindness of God in sending Christ and granting the Holy Spirit to those who receive Him.

*[Titus 3:4-6](#) 4But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of*

*regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,*

**EXAMPLE:**

Peter tells us that we long for the pure milk of the word and grow by it because we...

[1Peter 2:3 NAS](#) I have tasted the kindness of the Lord

**EXAMPLE:**

The O.T. speaks repeatedly of God using the term loving kindness

[Ps. 26:3 KJV](#) For thy lovingkindness is before mine eyes: and I have walked in thy truth.  
[Ps. 63:3 KJV](#) Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.

**KEY INSIGHT:**

This essential attribute of God's LOVE will seek to relieve spiritual burdens.

[Galatians 6:2](#) Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

**QUOTE:** Henry Drummond (1851-1897)

*The greatest thing a man can do for his heavenly Father is to be kind to some of his other children.*

**EXAMPLES:**

- The offer to pray with your spouse after they have shared a burden with you. Have you made a kind attempt to relieve your spouse's spiritual burden this week?
- You can show kindness by LISTENING
- You can show kindness with your words

[Prov. 10:11](#) The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life,

**ILLUSTRATION:** This past year, if someone had paid you ten dollars for every kind word you ever spoke about other people and also collected five dollars for every unkind word, would you be rich or poor?

**QUOTE:** An old Scottish preacher.

*"If we are not very kind we are not very holy."*

Kindness starts in the home.

- Are you known as a kind person in your home?
- Husbands are you kind to your wives and children?
- Wives are you kind to your husband and children?
- Children are kind to your parents?
- Brothers and sisters are you kind?
- Is it more than just a kind feeling?
- Do you do deeds of kindness toward one another?

**QUOTE:** Isaac Watts

*Kind words toward those you daily meet – Kind words and actions right – Will make this life of ours*

*most sweet – Turn darkness into light.*

## “KINDNESS IS LOVE IN WORK CLOTHES”

*1 Cor 13:4 4....Love does not envy*

Envy is the same as jealousy. NAS states Love is not jealous. Envy is a powerful thing.

*Proverbs 27:4 4Wrath is cruel, anger is overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy?*

### Examples:

- Cain murdered his own brother Abel because of envy
- Joseph’s brothers sold him into slavery because of envy
- Daniel was thrown into the lion’s den because of the envy of his fellow officials in Babylon.
- In the Parable of the Prodigal Son jealousy caused the elder brother to resent the father’s attention to the prodigal son.

In its extreme, jealousy has a viciousness shared by no other sin. **Crucial insight** is that envy delivered our Lord Jesus Christ to be crucified.

*Matthew 27:18 For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up.*

Love and envy are mutually exclusive. Envy is incompatible with real love. Are you glad for the successes of those you love? Do you desire the success of those you love?

### EXAMPLE: Jonathan and David

David was a greater and more popular warrior than Jonathan. David was a threat to the throne that rightfully belonged to Jonathan, yet Jonathan had nothing but great respect and love for his friend David. Jonathan would have willingly sacrificed not only the throne, but his life for David.

Love is longsuffering, is kind, does not envy and....

*1 Cor 13:4 4love does not.... boast*

### KEY INSIGHT:

The root of the original Greek word here pointed to the idea of being a “windbag” it came to carry the idea of being a braggart, a boaster

*Jeremiah 9:24 24but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.*

Love is longsuffering, is kind, does not envy, does not boast...

*1 Cor 13:4 4....it is not arrogant*

### QUESTION: WHY IS PRIDE SO UNLOVING?

Pride makes you preoccupied with importance of self. Greek word for arrogant is *phusioo* {foo-see-o’-o} meaning to inflate, blow up, to cause to swell up; to puff up, make proud, to bear one’s self loftily, be proud..

- **BECAUSE** pride Destroys Relationships. Pride gives you an exaggerated perception of self-importance. Which causes you to always want to be the center of attention. Pride says, "I want everyone to know how important I am!" Pride causes people to be very pushy and demanding.
- **BECAUSE** pride makes you blind to YOUR OWN faults and thus it provides an atmosphere in the heart where sin can flourish. Pride fosters an attitude of heart where you refuse to see your faults when they are pointed out. You cannot grow in your relationships with others when you will not see the need to change.

*Pride makes you deaf to correction, that is why we read:  
[Prov 11:2](#) 2When pride comes, then comes shame (or disgrace)  
 Pride makes you contentious, that is why we read:  
[Prov 13:10 KJV](#) 10Only by pride cometh contention*

**POINT:** Pride starts fights and pride keeps fights going!

**THE BIG POINT:** In contrast to pride, which destroys relationships, HUMBLE LOVE ENCOURAGES RELATIONSHIPS. Why?

- **BECAUSE** it is preoccupied with the importance of others. Pride says, "I am preoccupied with my importance, but humble love says, "I am preoccupied with importance of others"

*EXAMPLE: John the Baptist, at the height of a popularity that he never sought he was glad to let the One he loved become the center of all the attention.  
[John 3:30](#) 30He must increase, but I must decrease.*

- **BECAUSE** it opens your eyes to your own faults.

*EXAMPLE: Humble love says with the Psalmist...  
[Psalm 139:23](#) 23Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! 24 And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!  
[James 5:16](#) 16Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.*

- **BECAUSE** it is considerate instead of contentious. **CRUCIAL** point is that Satan cannot beat humility. This is not the easiest thing to come to terms with, but it is one of the most profound and revolutionary truths you will ever know as a Christian. A friend told me once, "Somebody has to be humble here!"

*Think about these verses: [Prov. 13:10 KJV](#) 10Only by pride cometh contention  
[James 3:16](#) 16For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.*

Back to our launching pad of 1 Thessalonians 4.

*[1 Thes 4:9-10](#) 9Now concerning brotherly love you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, 10for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more,*

That love is the remedy for all of that wreckage! I URGE YOU TO PUT THIS TO THE TEST IN EVERY RELATIONSHIP IN YOUR LIFE! TO PRAY FOR ME THAT I WILL PUT THIS TO THE TEST IN EVERY RELATIONSHIP IN MY LIFE!

NEXT WEEK — We continue with our examination of the essence of this love that is crucial to our sanctification

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