

## LEAVING A LEGACY OF LOVE

Bill Butterworth, Author & Speaker  
November 29, 2015

*But now abide faith, hope, love, these three;*

*but the greatest of these is love.*

*First Corinthians 13:13*

### THREE WAYS TO RECOGNIZE LOVING PEOPLE

#### 1. Loving People Know Love Is The Top Priority.

Love is an Act of the Will.

*Now as to the love of the brethren, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another. First Thessalonians 4:9*

#### 2. Loving People Know Love Takes Practice.

Love is in the context of a Relationship.

*For indeed you do practice it toward all the brethren in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, to excel still more. First Thessalonians 4: 10*

#### 3. Loving People Know Love's Tremendous Power.

Love can remove that Unsettled Feeling.

*And to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life and attend to your own business and work with your hands, just as we commanded you. So that you may behave properly toward outsiders and not be in any need.*

*First Thessalonians 4: 11-12*

© 2015, Bill Butterworth

### NEXT STEPS

- I am committing to follow Jesus for the first time today.
- I am re-committing to follow Jesus today.
- I will identify one specific person/relationship in my life and commit to put love into action.



**Lesson Aim:** To help people realize that love is an act of the will that each of us chooses to put into action.

**Icebreaker:** If a Christian asked you for advice on how to make their life more pleasing to God, what is the first thing you would say?

1. Thinking back on Bill Butterworth's message, what is one thing that encouraged or challenged you?
2. **Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12.** Why would Paul give these instructions on holy living to people whom he says are already living a life which pleases God (vv. 1, 10)?
3. What clues does this passage give as to how Paul would define sexual immorality (vv. 3-6)? How does sexual immorality "wrong" or "take advantage of" a fellow believer (v. 6)?
4. Scholars agree that verses 11 and 12 were directed toward members of the church who had quit working and were relying on the kindness of their fellow Christians to provide them with necessities. Why would Paul have been concerned about the effect this attitude was having on outsiders?

5. What work habits detract from your Christian love and witness?
6. Paul has given commands in this passage concerning sexual immorality, love for fellow Christians and work. What can you do this week to become more obedient in one of these areas?
7. **Read 1 John 4:13-21.** What three assurances does John give for determining that "we live in Him and He in us"? (vv. 13-16)
8. Why does our love for others enable us to be confident on the Day of Judgment? (vv. 17-18)
9. Why is it true that we as believers will indeed learn to love other believers (vv. 19-21; cf. 1 Thessalonians 4:9)? How have you seen this to be true?

**Close in prayer as God leads you.**

Memorizing Scripture is a key tool to resist temptation, make wise decisions, strengthen us under stress, comfort us when we're sad and to witness to those who don't know Christ.

**Memory Verse(s) of the Week: 1 Thessalonians 4:9**