

Super Size Love

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

Intro: Tips for Rock Climbing:

- 1) **Never climb alone.**
- 2) **Always use the right Equipment.**
- 3) **Teamwork is essential.**

A) That is good advice for us in the body of Christ –

- 1) We are to be climbers always progressing – moving upwards in our walks

B) Higher we go, the closer we get to the Lord – **the more that we start to resemble the Lord**

- 1) But we are not climbing alone – We climb together ! We grow with others!

C) Part of the Process of maturity is going to involve our interaction with others

D) And our relying upon and be connected to the right equipment – God’s Holy Spirit in our Hearts !

Well here in 1 Thessalonians - Paul is writing to this Church that he was very impressed w/ & Blessed by.

A) Blessed by their Faith – ACTIVE FAITH - they lived what they believed!

B) He was blessed by their Hope – They believed in the imminent return of Jesus Christ!

C) He was blessed by their love – They served each other and the other believers in the region

D) But even though they were doing well in all these areas Paul continued to encourage them to:
Keep climbing – Go Higher – Do Better !

V1 Abound more and more- Holiness{ Sexual purity

E) We see that once again in our text this morning – RD V. 9-10

But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;10 and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more

Paul says I don’t need to talk to you again about Brotherly love – you have that down .

A) But I will encourage you to Increase more and more .

B) Other translations – Abound – Super Abound –
[Super size Love]

C) Super size the meal – bigger drink more fries

- 1) The idea is more – more of what you already have

D) Make it bigger / better / stronger / Let love Grow !
[American Health]

It has been determined that America is not as Healthy as we used to be – **One of the leading causes is fast food industry and super size portions**

Super Size a meal getting – **way more food than we need – especially the Fries**

Martin Spurlock – Wrote and Starred in a new Documentary – called Super Size me

The Documentary shows Spurlock – eating McDonalds – 3 meals a day for one month

At the end of the month – Spurlock became very ill

But Probably feels it was worth it – **the Doc has earned 11million dollars – He is up for an Academy award – for best Documentary**

He won best director at the Sundance film festival

And his Doc. Led Mac's to eliminate their Super size menu

So I guess it debatable: Super size is worth it or not

It might not be the healthiest thing to Super Size your meal – But when it comes to Christian love

It is greatly encouraged – Let it super abound

The subject of Love & unity were important one's to our Lord .

A) On his last night with his disciples in the upper room before going to the cross –
He challenged them several times –

Love one another as I have loved you

B) Then in John 17 – His prayer for them before the cross - **SIX different times in that short Prayer – He prays that they would be ONE !**

C) Paul also was one who wrote an awful lot about being one / about being likeminded and about Unity !

1) He spoke of Unity being likeminded having brotherly love in almost everyone of his epistles

D) John also wrote extensively on the subject in his epistle and Peter and James do as well

Why is Love so important ? The opposite of Love is strife and division

1) Strife and division are marks of :

CARNALITY – 1 COR 3 1 Cor 3:1,3

And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ.

For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?

SELFISHNESS JAMES 4:1

Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members?

We live in a culture , society that promotes selfishness / look out for #1 mentality is encouraged !

*2 Friends John and Dave were hiking when they spotted a mountain lion staring at them. John froze in his tracks, but Dave sat down on a log, tore off his hiking boots, pulled a pair of running shoes from his backpack and **hurriedly began** to put them on./ John asked What doing Dave ? you can't outrun a mountain lion!"*

*Dave responded / **I know I just have to outrun you."***

Consider this Tragic Illustration !

In Colorado, several people begged a trucker to free the channel so that they could put through an emergency call, but he refused to cooperate. They wanted to direct a doctor to the scene of a serious accident.

An automobile had driven into the rear of a flatbed trailer carrying metal tubing. A piece of pipe had gone through the car's windshield, pinning a woman in the wreckage. The trucker continued to tie up the channel, frustrating all attempts to obtain help.

*Finally he came upon the scene of the accident himself. To his utter dismay, he discovered that the critically injured person was his own wife! When a doctor did arrive, he said that if he had been notified even **10 minutes earlier, the woman probably would have survived***

THE ENEMIES PRESENCE: Eph 4:26-27

26 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath,27 nor give place to the devil.

Gives the devil a foothold.

Love is important because:

1) Sign that we are born again and Know God !

1 John 4:7-9

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Defining mark of the Christian life – Romans The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the HS

2) Sign that we are walking in the Spirit!

Gal 5:16,22-23

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,23 gentleness, self-control.

The Fruit of the Spirit is love !

Joy is love rejoicing

Peace is loves calming

Long-suffering is loves patience

Kindness is love showing mercy

Goodness is loves grace and giving

Faithfulness is loves sureness it can be counted on. **Gentleness** is loves humility and compassion.

Self control is loves self restraint and order!

3) It is key to Christian liberty:

1 Cor 8:1

Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.

Love says I will forfeit my liberty rather than causing my brother to stumble by exercising my liberty. – 1 Cor 8:13

4) Love is a key to spiritual gifts!

1 Cor 14:1 Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts,

1 Cor 13:1-3 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

1 Cor 13:13

13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 Cor 16:14

14 Let all that you do be done with love.

5) Love is a witness to the World.

John 13:34-35

34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Love is to be the defining mark of the Christian life / Jesus said the world will know that you are my disciples by your love !

Not your church attendance or your knowledge of the scriptures / not your many gifts / (w/out love they are all nothing - noisy gong)

Wycliffe bible translator Doug Meland & his wife moved to a village in Brazil to minister to the Fulino Indians / He was referred to as "*the White man*" Which wasn't a compliment /

These Indians had been exploited & taken advantage of by white men .

After they learned the language & began to help the Indians w/ medicine & in other ways "*the Respectable white man*"

One day the Indians saw Doug washing a dirty smelly bloody foot of a young Indian boy ("*The man God sent us*")

True Christian love transcends color / race / social status/ Costa Mesa in the early days

My school – Gangs – racial prejudice – so different at Church

Suits / Blue Jeans / All races

The world will know we are His disciples by our love

6) It means that we are becoming more like Jesus !

"In 1883, a youthful pastor named Rev. Joe Roberts, arrived by stagecoach in a blizzard to minister to the Indians of Wyoming.

This great, wild area had been assigned to the Protestant Episcopal Church by President Grant.

Soon after Joe Roberts arrived, the son of the chief was shot by a soldier in a brawl, and Chief Wash/akie vowed to kill the first white man he met.

Since this might mean the start of a long, bloody feud, young Roberts decided to take action.

Seeking out the Chief's tepee, fifteen miles away in the mountains, he stood outside and called the chief's name.

When Washakie appeared, Roberts opened his shirt.

"I have heard of your vow," he said, "*I know that the other white men have families, but I am alone. Kill me instead.*"

The chief was amazed and motioned him into his tent. "*How do you have so much courage?*" he asked.

Joe Roberts told him about Christ, His death, His teachings.

They talked for hours. When Joe left, the chief of the Shoshones had renounced his vow to kill and had become a Christian.

All because Chief *Wash/akie had seen love in action.*

Love makes an impact on others

1st - Who did He love? Enemies / loved those who hated Him

A.) **Loved those who crucified Him!** *“Father forgive”* “ Paul said *when we were enemies of God Christ died for us*”

B) Loved those who turned on Him

C) Easy to love your friends – those who you get along with { No Personality conflicts

D) Christ love – Show love to those I don’t get along with

2nd - When did He love? When we were at our worst!

A) 400 years before John B. “Silent years” - no prophet in Israel - Man was far from God - not seeking God!

Bb)He showed his love when the Religious system in Israel was corrupted and the rest of world were idolaters

B) The gross immorality that was in the world during the days when the Romans were in Power was **probably one of the worst times in History**

Homosexuality was rampant / they were extremely immoral people who influenced the minds of the whole world !

C) He loved us when we were at our worst !

3rd - How did He love? With His whole life - he laid down His life!

A.) Jesus looked past the sin & saw the sinner and loved him - laid down his life for him

B.) **Self preservation** is natural characteristic of physical life - watch out for me
1.) **self sacrifice** is natural characteristic of spiritual life

C.) **Jesus exemplified that self sacrificing love when concealed His deity /**

1) He Laid aside His right to assert Himself as God! & Came in the form of a man

D.) **He Came humbly- (not as a king but as a lowly peasant from one of worst cities in Israel!**

1) Jesus humbled Himself - took form of a servant

E.) His whole life was about serving man - caring for people & ultimate example was Calvary where He **Took care of mans internal problem - sin!**

One man sin entered the World

One man’s Love – Salvation was made possible

Love makes an impact on others !

Christianity is a shoe-leather faith--a living, practical faith that hits the streets in normal, everyday life, affecting everything from the believers' simplest attitudes and most mundane actions to their profoundest thoughts and noblest deeds.

Now in this area of Love and Christian conduct – Paul wraps up this section with some very practical instruction

11 that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you,12 that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing.

Lead a quiet life – Learn to be quiet – not a Busy body – mind your own business

First moved to OCSD – yrs ago – My wife was invited to come to a get together or neighborhood wives – **We meet to have tea and complain about our Husbands –**

My wife declined stating she was married to the perfect man { JK – But she declined

The lady who invited her had a little girl the age of our Son Aaron – both toddlers

The kids started to play – Denise made friends with this woman – Eventually led her to Christ

This woman saw something different in Denise – she just quietly went about her life – Not wanting to take part like the other ladies in being a Busy body

How can you avoid falling into the trap – Work with your hands – keep busy

When we combine the love of our brothers with work, we **walk properly**.

People who are not yet Christians (**those who are outside**) will see our example and be influenced to become followers of Jesus.

Let love abound – super Size love

Next week – New Section – Christ Coming !