



1 Thessalonians - Study Guide for the Teaching Series

Week 4 – Sunday 26th July 2020: 1 Thessalonians 2.3-16 Six Lessons in Love

Please read **1 Thessalonians 3.10-13** for context.

1 Thessalonians 2. 3-4 – Lesson 1: Be a God-pleaser, not a people-pleaser!

3 For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. 4 On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts.

1. On the surface, Paul's approach to pleasing God, not people, doesn't seem especially loving. What makes it a truly loving attitude? How does it differ from most people's attitude?
2. What will it look like for us to imitate Paul/ Jesus in our relationships in this regard?

1 Thessalonians 2.5-6 – Lesson 2: Be Genuine, don't be a fake!

5 You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed – God is our witness. 6 We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority.

3. What kinds of damage can flattery, 'masking' ulterior motives, and 'looking for praise' have on relationships in a church family?
4. Why should we follow Paul's example, and how might we go about doing it (imitating him)?

1 Thessalonians 2.7a – Lesson 3: Be like a Young Child in the family

7 Instead, we were like young children among you.

5. What qualities does Paul have in mind here? And what will it look like to live like young children in our relationships in the Hill Cliffe family?

1 Thessalonians 2.7b-9 – Lesson 4: Be like a Nursing Mother

Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, *8 so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. 9 Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.*

6. How would it change church relationships if we all loved the family like a mother loves her kids?

1 Thessalonians 2.11-12 – Lesson 5: Be like a Father

11 For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, 12 encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

7. Why are all 3 - encouraging, comforting and urging, vitally important ways to love? What needs to change for you in order to imitate Paul's love in this regard?

1 Thessalonians 2.14-14 – Lesson 6: Honour the Good

8. How can you learn from Paul's approach of honouring the good in the church family?