



Where's ...
everybody?

Next week will be better if ...

- ▶ **Plan to e-connect with a group to discuss our passage after the message in real time.**
 - Use Google Hangout for live audio & video.
 - Group calling or speaker phone.
 - Family table discussion.

LOVE MORE AND MORE

TRUE

An arrow with a feather fletching on the left and a sharp point on the right, passing through the word 'TRUE'.

Studies in 1 & 2 Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 4:9, NIV

Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other.

1 Thessalonians 4:10, NIV

*And in fact, you do love all of
God's family throughout
Macedonia. Yet we urge you,
brothers and sisters, to do so more
and more,*

1 Thessalonians 4:11, NIV

and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you,

1 Thessalonians 4:11, NIV

so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

Two parallel ideas in 1 Th 4:9-12

- ▶ **Love abounds** *when sharing with those really in need.*
- ▶ **Love abounds** *when working to meet my own needs.*

1 Thessalonians 4:1, NIV

*We instructed you how to live in order to **please God**, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to **do this more and more.***

Love abounds *when sharing with those really in need*

► ***Paul knew of specific instances of acts of love by the Thessalonians.***

- “We have no need to write to you” is both commendation and stimulation.
- You’ve made a great start! Don’t stop now!

Love abounds *when sharing
with those really in need*

► ***How did God teach them to love each other?***

- The work of the **Holy Spirit**.
- The preaching of the apostles who taught them **the words of Jesus** (God the Son).
- The **OT** was opened to them by the **Spirit**.

Love abounds *when working to meet my own needs*

► ***Love is an action I take to meet the real needs of another.***

- People need more than a handout.
- They need a way to support themselves.
- They need a way to share with those in need (see Eph 4:28).

Love abounds *when working to meet my own needs*

► ***The patronage problem of the 1st Century was a trap for believers.***

- Patron/client relationship meant giving up freedom. *No man can serve two masters.*
- Freedom and self-sufficiency were highly valued in the Greek world of Thessalonica.

Love abounds *when working to meet my own needs*

- ▶ ***Love refuses to take advantage of the generosity of others.***
 - Industry and hard work always adorn the gospel message.
 - Work! Find projects to complete, neighbors to help, skills to learn, people to enlist in helping others.

We will have **amazing opportunities!**

► **God is in this COVID-19 lockdown!**

*They were the worst of times;
they were the best of times!*





Start each day with fresh commitment:

Dear God, I choose to love more and more—today. Help me!

Teach me the gospel's power in the One who died for sinners and lives to make them holy.