"SOMETHING YOU NEVER LEARNED IN SCHOOL"

I Thessalonians 4:9-10

1-7-2026

**** You should be "taught of God to love!"***

Why? 2 Reasons:

I. GOD'S LESSON ON LOVE IS <u>PERSONAL</u> (v. 9)
(Private Tutoring)

A. SOME LESSONS CAN ONLY BE LEARNED FROM THE MASTER

B. SOME LESSONS CANNOT BE LEARNED OVER-NIGHT

II. GOD'S LESSON ON LOVE IS <u>PRACTICAL</u> (v. 10)
(Productive Instruction)

A. LOVE TAUGHT BY GOD IS SOMETHING YOU CAN <u>DO</u>
(Not Limited to <u>Theory</u>)

B. LOVE TAUGHT BY GOD IS SOMETHING YOU CAN DO <u>CONTINUALLY</u>
(<u>Not</u> Limited in <u>Duration</u> [time])

C. LOVE TAUGHT BY GOD IS SOMETHING YOU CAN DO FOR <u>ALL BELIEVERS</u>
(<u>Not</u> Limited in <u>Effectiveness</u> [quantity])

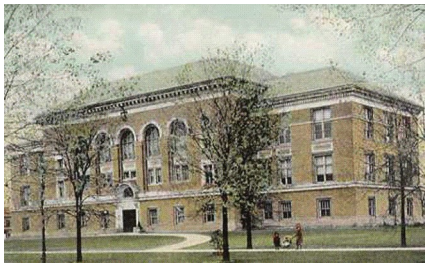
1. Love is to be <u>impartial</u>

2. Love is to be <u>reciprocal</u> (cp. v. 9 "one another")

D. LOVE TAUGHT BY GOD IS SOMETHING YOU CAN DO TO <u>EVER-INCREASING LEVELS</u>
(<u>Not</u> Limited in <u>Extent</u> [quality])

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"SOMETHING YOU NEVER LEARNED IN SCHOOL"

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INTRODUCTION:

Today I want you to see something you never learned in school...

Something you never really understood while a teacher lectured...

Something you will never master by reading a textbook...

That is - How to have and exercise God's Love.

In verse one God calls on us to walk in such a way that we please God. (This forms the theme for what follows)

He then showed us 3 ways to do this:

1) Sexual Purity (v.2-8)
2) Brotherly Love (v.9-10)
3) Working for a living (v. 11-12)

ILLUS: of the benefits of private (or small class) tutoring (intimacy; no distractions; personal concern; more attention; individualized to meet your needs, etc.)

***You should be "taught of God to love!"**

Why? 2 Reasons:

I. GOD'S LESSON ON LOVE IS PERSONAL (v. 9)

(Private Tutoring)

A. SOME LESSONS CAN ONLY BE LEARNED FROM THE MASTER

V. 9

If Paul would have needed to write on this subject, the best he could do is show what love is, what it isn't; whether or not one has it as evidenced in his life.

Some lessons can't be learned by precept alone.

Some lessons take extraordinary instruction; sometimes we need the Master to teach us.

Love is one lesson we must rely upon God to really learn.

"Brotherly love" = "philadelphia" In classical greek it was used for affection

or love for a brother or sister by birth, but in the N.T., it is always used to show the love of "the brethren" (fellow believers).

Christian love does not under-value or disregard natural family ties (God condemns those without natural affection - Ro. 1:31; II Tim. 3:3), but it transcends these limited natural ties and has a wider sphere of affection (Lk. 8:21) (Hiebert, p. 177)

Wherever men get saved, wherever the gospel takes root, a "family feeling" sprouts up among the converts.

a. Love was the mark of the early Church (Acts 4:32) - They were family.

b. Love is a conviction to the lost world "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one for another."

c. Love is a mark of one's salvation (I Jn. 3:14-16).

Do you ever notice what animals do instinctively? Fish do not attend classes to learn how to swim (although they do swim in schools). Birds by nature flap their wings to fly.

"It is nature that determines action. Because a fish has a fish's nature, it swims; because a hawk has a hawk's nature, it flies. And because a Christian has God's nature (II Pet. 1:4), he loves - because God is love (I Jn. 4:8) (Wiersbe, p. 78)

What may this truth hint at if one professes to know Christ but does not love? Maybe unsaved.

"Taught of God" = this is one word in Greek. Lit. "God-taught" This is the only time it appears in N.T. Paul tied the word "God" to the word "taught" to show that they were indoctrinated by God in the matter of love.

"taught by God" - an intuitive teaching, whereby it comes natural to love.

The word points to a divine relationship between God and believers (who are "born of God" and have His Spirit) whereby we cannot help but love those in our family ("It's the way we are being brought up" - so to speak).

God (our spiritual Father) teaches us like our earthly father should have: "Son, love your brother."

This teaching is God's tutoring your heart by the indwelling Spirit.

We are taught in the school of God, in the classroom of our heart, by the Holy Spirit who is the instructor.

Rom. 5:5 - "The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."

Without God loving through us, we have no real love! Our love is carnal!

God is anxiously looking for interested students to impart this lesson to.

B. SOME LESSONS CANNOT BE LEARNED OVER-NIGHT

"Are taught" = present tense. He didn't say you were taught, but rather are taught.

The lesson is in process. It's not over yet! It's not a crash course. We don't ever graduate until in heaven, nor receive a diploma yet.

It's a matter that God will need to teach us over and over. Why?

1) It takes time to perfect since we have a sinful old nature that creeps up and battles against the Spirit.

2) It's the most vital command for the N.T. believer. He wants us to really learn what it means to love.

You can measure your spirituality by how much you love (give, help, concern, etc.)

II. GOD'S LESSON ON LOVE IS PRACTICAL (v. 10)

(Productive Instruction)

A. LOVE TAUGHT BY GOD IS SOMETHING YOU CAN DO
(Not Limited to Theory)

V. 10

While you can't see from outward observation the teaching process, you can see that the lesson is being learned.

When the subject of Biblical love is really learned (subjectively), it will show itself (objectively).

God does not say: "Indeed you feel...but indeed you do" or "Indeed you know...but indeed you do"

Love is doing! ( )

Some things we learn are not really that valuable because they don't touch life; mere "pie in the sky" useless rhetoric.

We don't want to learn things just to know them, or just to put it on paper, but to put it into life.

God's teaching us to love is not some dry, dusty theory to tickle our brain - it's practical

It's one thing to know what to do; it's another thing to do it. God gives us the "know-how" and the ability.

Love is action; it's giving, meeting needs, sacrificing (I Jn. 3:17-18 - "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.")

You can do without loving; but you can't love without doing!

May God help me to feed and lead V.B.C. because of my love for you. May God help Rocky to be faithful as a deacon out of love; Those who minister in Music...Those who clean the building...Those who repair the building...Those who cook meals and deliver them....etc.

B. LOVE TAUGHT BY GOD IS SOMETHING YOU CAN DO CONTINUALLY

(Not Limited in Duration [time])

"Ye do" = Present tense indicating continual or habitual action

In verse 9 "to love one another" is also showing that love is not to be occasional, sporadic, but a continual and habitual practice.

I Cor. 13:13 - the greatest virtue is love. Why? Love will still exist in Heaven, while faith will be replaced by sight, and hope will be replaced by reality.

Some things we learn to do are useful until out-dated. Love is never out-dated.

C. LOVE TAUGHT BY GOD IS SOMETHING YOU CAN DO FOR ALL BELIEVERS
(Not Limited in Effectiveness [quantity])

Some things we learn have limited applications. Love fits all!

We are to love one another.

1. Love is to be impartial

It's a love expressed not only to their own church members, but also toward all fellow believers "in all Macedonia" (the Roman province of which Thessalonica was the capital) (Hiebert, p. 179)

"Their expression of love toward other believers was as wide as their opportunities" (Hiebert, p. 179)

We have so many opportunities, but often neglect, overlook, ignore them.

2. Love is to be reciprocal (cp. v. 9 "one another")

"Tertullian (c. 192) quotes the heathen as remarking in amazement, 'Behold how these Christians love one another!'" (Heibert, p. 177)

Does the world say of us, "Behold how Christians love one another"? OR do they say, "Behold how they shove one another"?

Do they see us united or divided?
Do they see us helping or hindering?
supporting or tearing down?
seeking to get or striving to give?

Maybe this shows what school we attended to learn how to love.

D. LOVE TAUGHT BY GOD IS SOMETHING YOU CAN DO TO EVER-

INCREASING LEVELS
(Not Limited in Extent [quality])

Some things we learn to do can only be perfected so much and then we get bored.

Love is inexhaustible. We won't "get it down" (perfected) until in Heaven.

NOTE: how Paul previously commended the Thessalonians for their love - 1:3; 3:6

But now he wants them to "increase more and more"

V. 10b

Cp. verse 1 - "abound more and more"

"Increase more and more" = overflow; (to keep on growing; like a living plant must keep growing and producing fruit, we must grow in our love or we will dry up and die in our spiritual walk).

"Beseech" = shows personal concern and sense of urgency.

Never be satisfied; never feel as though you have done enough.

Let's not stop until we reach Heaven!

Go on to new heights, new horizons, maximum level.

We tend to go to a limit in our love. Why?

1) We are not learning from God how to excel.

2) Shy, timid, etc. because we are self-conscious. Self-consciousness is really another word for egotistical pride. We worry about what others will think; we have been taught in our society to be "macho," "cool," etc.

Giving out of love (without selfish motives) is so rare, it's almost extinct!

How does God cause our love to "increase more and more"? "By putting us into circumstances that force us to practice Christian love. Love is the "circulatory system" of the body of Christ, but if our spiritual muscles are not exercised, the circulation is impaired. The difficulties that we believers have with one another are opportunities for us to grow in our love. This explains why Christians who have had the most problems with one another often end up loving one another deeply, much to the amazement of the world." Wiersbe, p. 78-79).

"Increase" - don't be "weary in well-doing"

CONCLUSION:

I. God's lesson on love is personal

II. God's lesson on love is practical

**Will you make it a daily prayer request:

1) God teach me how to love someone that crosses my path today the way you love them (with your love).
--genuine love (unhypocritical, unselfish)
--consistent love (unaffected by circumstances)
--impartial love (no favoritism; no prejudice)

HYMN - "May Christ be seen in me."