

Blue-Collar Evangelism

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

What one word do you think of when you think of BRC?

The answer that I hear most often is family!

People tend to feel at home when they are with us, participating in our worship services & ministries! Could we hope for a better answer than that?

What Paul is saying in this part of his letter to the Thessalonians is essentially the same thing - that they are excelling in the area of being a church family!

“Now concerning brotherly love, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia...” Vs. 9-10

This “brotherly love”, this familial embrace, was not just shown to those in Thessalonica, it was also shown to all the believers throughout Macedonia.

This is what it means to be a church – to be a people who embrace one another as family and who love one another as Christ has loved us!

The love of Jesus transforms lives, & that love lives within us as His Church!

Let me share some examples: _____

Like Paul, I don’t feel the need to challenge you in this area of “brotherly love”, however I will encourage you, just as Paul encouraged the Thessalonians, **“to do this more and more...” – Vs. 10** **John 13:35**

But Paul doesn’t stop here! There’s more to being the Church than just being one big happy family together! **There’s a whole world out there that doesn’t know God, and God wants them to be brought into His family!**

We are the ones entrusted with the gospel, to go out and tell the world the good news of what God has done in Christ, & what He is still doing in this world!

But how do we do this? How do we, as the Church, reach the world with the good news? Scripture speaks of many ways, but Paul’s words here to the church in Thessalonica are very interesting.

Does Paul say to, “invite the world to church?”, or “put on an evangelistic crusade, or “have a gospel conference?”, or “stand on the street corners with signs?”, or “hit people over the head with the Bible?” **NO!**

Paul says here in Ch. 4:11, to **“aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you...”**

How does that fit the model of evangelism that we have come to know?

Why would Paul say such things? Why would aspirations in these areas be so important for the Church to focus on in light of Christ’s second coming?

Have you heard the saying, **“Don’t be so heavenly minded that you do no earthly good”?** The Thessalonians were falling into that trap.

They were so focused on when Jesus would return that they were forsaking their daily responsibilities, thus creating a bad reputation for themselves.

How we live our daily lives speaks louder about what we believe than the words that come out of our mouths on a Sunday morning in church!

What good does it do if we say “We believe...” but we cuss out the driver who cuts us off, or gossip about others in the workplace, or regularly clock-in late at our jobs, or forsake our daily duties in the home or at work?

Paul is basically saying - Heavenly mindedness leads to doing earthly good! **And earthly good is the seedbed for effective evangelism!**

- When we **“aspire to live quietly”** evangelism happens because people see who we truly are by the way we live, not by the words we speak! **“Speak softly and carry a big witness!”** Let your life be the proof!
- When we **“mind our own affairs”** evangelism happens because people see a lifestyle not consumed with greed, gossip or contentiousness! **1 Peter 2:12** – God gets glorified when our good deeds are on display!
- **When we “work with our hands”** evangelism happens because people see a faith that is put to action - A people blessed to be a blessing!

As Christ followers, we are to live into these realities, as Paul says, **“so that we may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one!”** – Vs. 12

How we live, is either a signboard pointing others to the gospel or ammunition for them to say “see that’s why I want nothing to do with it!”

Blue-collar evangelism, is evangelism that works, b/c it give credibility to our faith!

Blue-Collar Evangelism

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

What one word do you think of when you think of BRC?

The answer that I hear most often is _____!

People tend to feel at home when they are with us, participating in our worship services & ministries! Could we hope for a better answer than that?

What Paul is saying in this part of his letter to the Thessalonians is essentially the same thing - that they are excelling in the area of being a church family!

“Now concerning brotherly love, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another, for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia...” Vs. 9-10

This “brotherly love”, this familial embrace, was not just shown to those in Thessalonica, it was also shown to all the believers throughout Macedonia.

This is what it means to be a _____ – to be a people who embrace one another as family and who love one another as Christ has loved us!

The love of Jesus transforms lives, & that love lives within ____ as His Church!

Let me share some examples: _____

Like Paul, I don’t feel the need to challenge you in this area of “brotherly love”, however I will encourage you, just as Paul encouraged the Thessalonians, ***“to do this more and more...” – Vs. 10*** **John 13:35**

But Paul doesn’t stop here! There’s more to being the Church than just being one big happy family together! There’s a whole _____ out there that doesn’t know God, and God wants them to be brought into His family!

We are the ones entrusted with the gospel, to go out and tell the world the good news of what God has done in Christ, & what He is still doing in this world!

But how do we do this? How do we, as the Church, reach the world with the good news? Scripture speaks of many ways, but Paul’s words here to the church in Thessalonica are very interesting.

Does Paul say to, “invite the world to church?”, or “put on an evangelistic crusade, or “have a gospel conference?”, or “stand on the street corners with signs?”, or “hit people over the head with the Bible?” _____!

Paul says here in Ch. 4:11, to ***“aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you...”***

How does that _____ the model of evangelism that we have come to know?

Why would Paul say such things? Why would aspirations in these areas be so important for the Church to focus on in light of Christ’s second coming?

Have you heard the saying, “Don’t be so _____ minded that you do no earthly good”? The Thessalonians were falling into that trap.

They were so focused on when Jesus would return that they were forsaking their daily responsibilities, thus creating a bad reputation for themselves.

How we live our daily lives speaks _____ about what we believe than the words that come out of our mouths on a Sunday morning in church!

What good does it do if we say “We believe...” but we cuss out the driver who cuts us off, or gossip about others in the workplace, or regularly clock-in late at our jobs, or forsake our daily duties in the home or at work?

Paul is basically saying - Heavenly mindedness leads to doing earthly good! And earthly good is the _____ for effective evangelism!

- When we ***“aspire to live quietly”*** evangelism happens because people see who we truly are by the way we live, not by the words we speak!
“Speak softly and carry a big _____!” Let your life be the proof!
- When we ***“mind our own affairs”*** evangelism happens because people see a lifestyle not consumed with greed, gossip or contentiousness!
1 Peter 2:12 – God gets glorified when our good deeds are on display!
- When we ***“work with our hands”*** evangelism happens because people see a faith that is put to _____ - A people blessed to be a blessing!

As Christ followers, we are to live into these realities, as Paul says, ***“so that we may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one!” – Vs. 12***

How we live, is either a signboard pointing others to the gospel or ammunition for them to say “see that’s why I want nothing to do with it!”

Blue-collar evangelism, is evangelism that works, b/c it give _____ to our faith!