

## A Worthy Walk

**Intro:** “A walk worthy of God ...” - 1 Th 2:12. How to kingdom citizens live?

### 1. Expressions of Brotherly Love

A. “Concerning brotherly love ...” - 1 Th 4:9-10.

1. “Brotherly love” is *philadelphias*; “love one another” is *agapao*. We should strive to love each other because we are members of the same spiritual family. Yet it seems that too often brethren are at war.
2. Love is to be constantly growing, abounding - 1 Th 3:12; 4:10. Many things threaten, suppress it.
3. They are taught love both by Jesus’ teaching, God’s very nature and Paul’s example (1 Th 3:12; 4:9). **Look how many things Paul taught them in such a short time!**

B. Esteem the leaders - 1 Th 5:12-13:

1. Labor among/over you in the Lord/admonish - The words are descriptive of spiritual oversight, the function of shepherds.
2. Recognize/esteem in love. It is all too easy to stand afar off and criticize the decisions of elders. We must become acquainted with them, consider their perspective, respect them **for their works’ sake**.
3. Remember, God did not take kindly to those who criticized the leadership of the Jews. Miriam (Num 12) was turned leprous, the earth swallowed those who rebelled with Korah (Num 16), the rejection of Samuel was rejection of God.

C. Specifics - 1 Th 5:14-15:

1. Warn the unruly (disorderly: *ataktos*, one who breaks ranks, insubordinate). Some in the church are rogues who think they are answerable to none. Preaching is to reprove, rebuke, warn, chasten.
2. Comfort the fainthearted (*oligopsuchoi*, small-souled). The rigors of spiritual warfare - fighting false teaching, enduring persecution, ridicule, etc. - is frightening and intimidating to some. They wish to turn and run from the enemy.
3. Uphold the weak. These are brethren with flimsy conviction, fleshly hangover, ignorance and are easily ensnared in sin.

4. Patient with all. **The fact that other Christians do not walk as they should can be discouraging and demoralizing! We must be patient.**

5. The strong must not retaliate or sink to the unspiritual level of others - 5:15.

## **2. A Life of Quiet Industry - 1 Th 4:11; 2 Th 3:10-13**

A. A quiet life - 1 Th 4:11; 2 Th 3:12. Christians are not to produce turmoil, unrest, strife. Too many “aspire” to find fault, criticize, stir controversy. They are always at the center of a storm. We must learn inner tranquility, peace, harmony.

B. Mind your own business - 1 Th 4:11; 2 Th 3:11. Do not be preoccupied with the details of other people’s lives. There is a fine line between legitimate concern for others and meddling in their affairs. **Crossing that line produces strife.**

C. Work with own hands - 1 Th 4:11; 3:10. Honorable labor produces satisfaction, achievement, self-worth, clear conscience, material needs. It also keeps us productively occupied and therefore out of trouble.

## **3. Walk Properly Toward Those Outside - 1 Th 4:12**

A. The Thessalonians did not need to antagonize or act hypocritically toward unbelievers, for this would exacerbate an already hostile environment.

B. Sometimes the brethren are the **last** to know the immoralities, hypocrisy and wickedness of unfaithful Christians. Some feign godliness at worship and act with reckless disregard for their own souls and the reputation of the church when in public.

C. **The world is watching us for inconsistency and hypocrisy.** They feel justified by our slips and lapses. We must look at ourselves through their eyes. Do we give them every incentive to be what we are? Can we correct error, defend the truth, hold up a godly family and present congregational unity and love?

**Conclusion:** What are your ambitions in life? Status? Wealth? Comfortable retirement? How much time, energy, worry, anxiety goes into pursuing and maintaining these goals? True happiness comes from loving and serving brethren, providing the necessities of life and influencing unbelievers for the Lord.