

1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 — The Power Of A Quiet Life

April 21, 2024

Good morning, CrossWinds! This morning, we continue our study of 1 Thessalonians. As you will remember, the book divides itself in half. Chapters 2 and 3 are Paul explaining why he couldn't personally return to Thessalonica and reminding the Thessalonians of his love for them. Chapters 4 and 5 are what he would like to talk to them about in person, but since he can't return, he will talk with them about these subjects via this letter.

Last week, we began 1 Thessalonians 4. We looked at verses 1 to 8, where Paul talks about the sanctity of sex, that is, the importance of Christians striving for sexually pure lives in our sex-saturated world.

This morning, we move on from that and look at the next unit of thought in the text, 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12. In these verses, Paul discusses a more mundane subject than sex, but it is an important topic. It is about the importance of the simple duties of the Christian life and the power of living a quiet life in a loud world.

Let's read the text together.

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. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one. 1 Thessalonians 4:9–12 (ESV)

These verses hang together because they all deal with the simple attitudes and duties of Christian living. This morning, Paul's point is counterintuitive. He wants us to know simple people who love others, who are

faithful at work, who live a quiet life and who mind their own business have an impactful life for Jesus in this world. We think an impactful way of life in this world is someone who has thousands of followers on YouTube or Social Media. Paul defines it the opposite way. An impactful life for Jesus is quiet. It is ordinary. Paul gives us four instructions on how to live a quiet but impactful life in a loud and obnoxious, lazy, loudmouthed world.

They are: 1. Love one another more. 2. Lead a quiet life. 3. Mind your own business. 4. Work with your hands. Let's study the text.

When Paul began this section in 1 Thessalonians 4:1, he began this section with these words.

...that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. 1 Thessalonians 4:1 (ESV)

Paul already taught them about sexual purity when he was with them before he was run out of town. They were to lean into sexual purity more and more in their lives. Similarly, Paul already taught them about the power of living a quiet ordinary life before he was run out of town. Now he wants them to lean into that more and more. This is not something they completely failed to do. It is something he wants them to continue to do. He wants them to improve upon this in their lives.

As we get into this section, there is some peculiar background that sets it up. In 2 Thessalonians, Paul says this.

For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. 2 Thessalonians 3:10–11 (ESV)

When Paul was with them, he talked about the importance of getting a job and not being dependent on others. He also talked about that in this passage in 1 Thessalonians, plus again in 2 Thessalonians in the passage we just read. Paul told them three times to get a job, go to work, and stop being busybodies who gossip.

In Thessalonica, people were avoiding work. They were idle. They stood around and did nothing. They were busybodies. They were literally going house to house, catching up on the latest gossip and chatter instead of going to work.

What was behind this? Why were they so lazy? Why weren't they loving and helping people as they should? Why weren't they minding their own business? When Paul began this letter, he was very complimentary of them and their faith.

...remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 1:3 (ESV)

But by the time we get to 1 Thessalonians 4 and 2 Thessalonians, he is critical of them, telling them to mind their own business and get a job. This is a strange combination. They had a great love for Jesus. They took their faith seriously but became lazy gossips. What happened?

While I don't know for sure, I have an idea what caused this weird combination of intense love for Jesus that led to becoming lazy gossips who were wasting their lives. We find a hint of what might have caused this in the flow of the text. There are two lengthy discussions about the return of Christ yet to come in 1 Thessalonians and another lengthy discussion about the return of Jesus in 2 Thessalonians 2. These young Christians were on fire for Jesus, but

they also were fired up about one particular doctrine: the return of Christ. Paul hinted at this in the first chapter.

...and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. 1 Thessalonians 1:10 (ESV)

These guys are focused on Jesus' return. When Paul taught them that Jesus was coming back, he thought Jesus might return in his lifetime. The Thessalonians took this and ran with it. Some of them were convinced Jesus could return at any time. Paul didn't know when Jesus would return. Jesus didn't know the hour of his return. They did know it could be at any time, and the Thessalonians became fixated on this. By the time we get to 2 Thessalonians, some of them thought the return of Christ was so soon that it might have happened, and they missed it.

...not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. 2 Thessalonians 2:2 (ESV)

These guys were so excited about Jesus' return that, in their excitement, they were neglecting the ordinary responsibilities of Christian living, like financially providing for yourself and caring for other people. In their exuberance for the return of Christ, they became loud-mouthed and lazy.

When we look across the expanse of history, we find times when various Christian groups were so caught up in the return of Jesus that they acted the same way. Some of these people gave all their stuff away. Others gave away their money. Others partied it up because they thought the return would be any time. Others ended up on their rooftops in their pajamas, waiting for Jesus to

come back and zap them to heaven. When people get this way, they neglect the basic duties of Christian living.

You might expect Paul to say, “Jesus is coming back soon so... 1. Evangelize the world. Give up your job to tell people about Jesus. 2. Sell all your possessions, use the cash to print Bible tracts, and give them to everyone you know. 3. Get loud and force everyone to listen so they are saved because Jesus is coming back soon.”

But that isn't what Paul does. He says, “Jesus is coming back soon so... 1. Love one another more. 2. Lead a quiet life. 3. Mind your own business. 4. Get a job.”

If Jesus is coming back, why does Paul tell people to return to the ordinary duties of Christian living and stop acting like loud-mouthed deadbeats? The underlying foundation of our evangelism as Christians is the credibility and attractiveness of our lives. If Christians are known in society as lazy, loud-mouthed, gossips nobody wants to hear about Jesus from them because our lifestyle pushes people away.

Historical Examples

Let me give you some examples of this from history. Going back to the third century, there is an interesting account written by Hippelates of Rome. He wrote about a bishop who lived in Pontus in the third century. He claimed Jesus was coming back by the end of that year. Many of the people in his church sold their property, gave their money to various Christian causes, and waited for Jesus to return. As you can guess, Jesus didn't return. They were left destitute.

In their zeal for Christ's return, they were carried away and didn't bring honor to Christ but ended up looking like a bunch of nuts in society.

I ran across someone like this in college. It was September or October of my freshman year when I met Duane. Duane and I would be on the wrestling team that fall. I can remember the conversation we had at the school lunch table. Duane loved Jesus, but he read a book and heard a speaker who convinced him Jesus would return in the next two years. He took this very seriously and didn't understand why I wasn't taking the return of Jesus as seriously as he did. He was so serious that he planned to leave school after the first semester and give his life to telling people about Jesus until Jesus returned. He even broke up with his girlfriend to have more time to tell people about Jesus before Christ's return. Duane was a good guy. He took his faith seriously. As you know, the speaker he heard and book he read was written by a quack. Jesus never returned. Two years later, a disillusioned Duane was re-enrolled as a college freshman.

If you want a recent example, you might remember Harold Camping.¹ He founded Family Christian Radio, a very influential radio network in my generation. I grew up hearing him on the radio. He also took the return of Jesus seriously. He got into something called numerology, an attempt to date different things in the Bible and look at their relationship to predict the date of future events. In my opinion, numerology is a scam. It doesn't matter what I think about it. What matters is he bought into it.



¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2013/12/18/us/harold-camping-radio-entrepreneur-who-predicted-worlds-end-dies-at-92.html>

Beginning in 1970, he began predicting the end of the world and the return of Christ. His first prediction was that the world would end and Jesus would return on May 21, 1988. He was wrong. He recalculated again and said Jesus was coming back in 2008. He was wrong again. He recalculated and said Jesus was coming back in May 2011.

Today, we know Harold Camping is a false prophet and a crackpot because of his multiple false predictions of the end of the world. What we need to remember is that he used his platform on the Family Christian Radio Network to convince many of people that Jesus was

coming back on the dates he proposed. People needed to make radical changes to prepare for Jesus' return. He advertised



Jesus' return on 5,000 billboards across the country. One of these signs was on the billboard just north of Perkins in Milford on the West side of the road. He printed thousands of books and pamphlets giving the details of what he claimed was the timeline of Jesus' return. They were translated into 75 languages.

The Bible tells us no one knows the day or the hour of Christ's return, not even Jesus. Harold Camping claimed he somehow knew the date of Jesus' return, which Jesus didn't know. That should have been a warning.

He raised hundreds of millions of dollars from his listeners to pay for all of this. Some listeners gave their life savings to the cause of one final call to the world before the return of Christ. As May 11, 2011, approached, Harold Camping

confidently claimed that on that day, 7 billion would die. He urged people to have their affairs in order. Some rushed into marriages; others ran up credit card debt because they thought that when Jesus returned, they would never have to repay it, others threw parties, some quit their jobs, and others gave away all their possessions to the cause.

With three days to go until May 11, 2011, one woman in California killed her 11 and 14-year-old daughters and took her own life because she was terrified and didn't want to face the day of God's judgment. A man in Taiwan leapt to his death from a building in hopes of avoiding the disastrous day of the Lord's return.

May 21, 2011 came and went, and nothing happened. As you would guess, people were furious with Harold Camping. Harold Camping said he was "flabbergasted" his predictions did not materialize. Finally, he emerged from solitude with an announcement. He claimed God quietly completed Judgment Day on May 21, 2011. God closed the books, and no more people could be saved. If you became a Christian after May 21, 2011, you are not saved. He claimed Jesus would return for real on October 21, 2011, 5 months later. There was no need to put this date on billboards because the opportunity for anyone to be saved was over.

October 21 came and went, and nothing happened. At that point, Harold Camping decided to stop his silly predictions. He had only been wrong at least four times. He sucked tens of millions of dollars out of people's lives, leaving many people destitute, others disillusioned, and some dead who took their lives out of fear. After he spend all that money, do you think anybody wanted to

become a Christian? Do you think the name of Christ was honored or shamed? He became known as a quack and scam artists as Family Christian Radio was now worth \$90 million dollars.

Something similar took place in Thessalonica. People were so enthusiastic about Jesus' return that they began neglecting the basic Christian duties, like loving people and going to work.

Let's see what Paul says we should be doing and how we should act if Jesus' return is five minutes or a thousand years from now.

1. Love one another more.

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. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, 1 Thessalonians 4:9–10 (ESV)

Let's break this down and work through it.

Now concerning brotherly love..., 1 Thessalonians 4:9a (ESV)

Paul wants to talk about brotherly love. Brotherly love is the Greek word *philadelphus*, from which we get the city name Philadelphia, the city of brotherly love. Originally, it meant to have affection for someone from the same womb, a biological relative. The New Testament uses the word differently. Brotherly love is used to describe the kind of love that should exist between Christians because we have the same heavenly father and have been adopted into the same family with Jesus as our elder brother.

Interestingly, in Greek, brotherly love is not about the words of love we speak. It is always the acts of service we show. When your mother or father is sick, you don't simply say nice words to them; as their children, it is your job to do

something about it and help them. If your mother lives alone and there is a problem in her house, whose job is it to show up and take care of the house repair? It is the job of her children. That is brotherly love. When your daughter's car breaks down on the road. Who does she call? Dad! When someone in your family needs help, it is your responsibility to do something about it.

The New Testament uses that same word to describe the kind of relationships we are to have with one another in the church. We are family.

For most of our lives, Cindy and I did not have parents around us as we raised our family and went through the ups and downs of life. It was our church family that came to our help in practical ways when our biological family couldn't. Years ago, when my basement flooded, people from my church came over to help. When Cindy was sick with her autoimmune disease and her life was in question, people from the church brought us meals. That is brotherly love. It is practical acts of service to help people in our family in their time of need. We treat our church family with the same kind of love and compassion as our biological family.

I want to pause to talk about this for a moment. For many of us, this must reframe how we think about church. It is easy to think about church, like going to a movie. We come in the door. We sit down. We watch the show. We grade the pastor and the music. Was it entertaining? Then, we leave with little horizontal interaction and only mono-directional input. If this is the only way you experience church, that is not a biblical church. The church is a family through Jesus. If we don't take time to build relationships with others at church, we will never know

how to help them in their time of need. We will never have a relationship that opens the opportunity to help them. Even if people in church are not like us, we treat them like family because they are our family.

I want to challenge you to stay a little longer after the service. Talk to people. Take time to meet new people. Open up your lives to others so you hear their stories and can share your stories. That is the only way we can extend *philadelphia* love, extend brother kindness and serve others in practical ways in their time of need. If we don't do that, we fall short of God's design for the church.

What comes to mind after the funeral of Robert Hoekstra this week are the widows and elderly in our church. While they have family, the church family functions as their family because children often do not live near their parents. If we want to apply this truth, find an elderly man or woman in the church or a widow in the church and open up your family to them to care for them in practical ways. When my mother died, and my father was left alone before he joined us in Spirit Lake, it was the church family that cared for him in those difficult days.

This week, begin applying this as soon as the service is over. Instead of rushing out the door, take a few minutes and meet someone new. Ask about their life and be open about your life. Care about them in any practical way we can.

Let's get back to this verse.

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. 1 Thessalonians 4:9 (ESV)

This is interesting. He says I don't need to write to you about brotherly love because you have already been taught by God to love others. You don't need my external instruction on this. You have God's internal instruction on this.

If you are a Christian, nobody needs to teach you about the priority and importance of showing practical love to other Christians because God put that desire in your heart the moment you trusted in Jesus. Let me show you.

...and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. Romans 5:5 (ESV)

The Holy Spirit puts God's love into our hearts so we naturally have compassion and the desire to meet the practical needs of other Christians.

What about Christians who don't have a desire to help other Christians? What does that mean? Let's look at some verses.

We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. 1 John 3:14 (ESV)

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7 (ESV)

Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 1 John 4:8 (ESV)

One evidence of genuine faith is practical love for other Christians. If there is no practical love for other believers, one wonders if someone even knows Jesus.

When we get to the next verse, Paul gives us a challenge.

...for that indeed is what you are doing to all the brothers throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers, to do this more and more, 1 Thessalonians 4:10 (ESV)

He says, "I know you are already going out of your way to love other Christians in practical ways. You are doing this because it is built into you." But... I urge you to do this more and more. As you anticipate the return of Jesus, don't let that turn you into a self-absorbed, preoccupied Christian who runs around with charts and timelines, putting notices on condemnation on billboards. Don't be

someone like that. As it looks like the world is ending, just love other Christians practically. Do this more and more. Make the church the most loving place anyone can be on the planet. As the people of the church, be so friendly, caring, and sacrificial that people don't want to run out the door. When people don't want to miss church on the weekend because they are loved so well by people in the church, that is what you want.

I like the way Paul puts this. You guys are doing a good job, but as you think about the end of the world, the return of Christ, and the decline of culture, just lean into loving people. Do this more and more.

Peter says something similar.

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8 (ESV)

Peter says, here is your number one priority. Here is the KRA for your job review. Love people more. Be earnest about this. Lean into this.

There was a survey done recently about what brings people to church and what keeps people at church. Preaching is usually one of the most important parts. After that, it used to be that worship was the second highest importance and children's ministry was the third highest importance. That is no longer true. A recent survey claims that relationships are the most important part of a church after preaching. If people in the church do not know me, love me, and are not like family to me, I will find a different church. People will put up with many things in a church being less than optimal if they are genuinely loved.

2. Lead A Quiet Life

...and to aspire to live quietly,... 1 Thessalonians 4:11a (ESV)

Jesus is coming back, so... live a quiet life. Wait a minute. That sounds backward. Shouldn't it be, "Jesus is coming back, so yell, scream, holler, march, and get the attention of the entire world?" Isn't this what people do to make a point? They create riots. They march in the street. They burn down a Wendy's. Should we do that? Paul says, absolutely not. Since Jesus is returning, try to live a quiet life, not a loud and obnoxious one.

I don't know if you saw this in the news. About 50 to 60 Christian demonstrators shut down the Senate Cafeteria for about 30 minutes this week until Capital Police arrested them and



hauled them off.² These Christians demanded the US force a cease-fire between Hamas and Israel. To get their point across, they blocked the Senate lunch line so Senators would go hungry. They chanted and held up posters saying, "Send bread, not bombs."

Do you think this impressed anyone? Do you think any senators were drawn to Jesus and want to learn more about the forgiveness he offers and the new life he gives? Absolutely not! Now the senators think about Christians as the nut cases who blocked the lunch line so they went hungry that day.

Since Jesus is coming back, we are to live a quiet life, not a loud and obnoxious one. The word for *quiet* in Greek means relaxed, peaceful, calm, and steady. Even when the Thessalonians were persecuted for their faith, they were

² <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/anti-israel-agitators-shut-down-senate-cafeteria-arrested>

not to be loud-mouth protesters known as social misfits and irritants of society. They were to live ordinary, quiet lives.

How might this apply to us? Most of us are quiet people in public conversation. It is when we get on the Internet that we can be less than helpful. Let's talk about social media. So many people on social media live in a loud-mouthed way. They use social media to bully people and run others down. They run the government down using every opportunity to speak hateful things. Others use social media to make themselves the center of attention. They love to see how many views they get and how many likes they can garner. They want to be known as social media influencers.

Many people on social media are not sharing truthful things. They are not sharing helpful things.

Here are some rules for social media.

1. If I can't say something positive or disagree in a positive way, it is best not to post.

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths (or across your keyboards), but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear (those who read your post). Ephesians 4:29 (ESV)

2. If you are not qualified to speak about a subject, don't add your ignorance to the Internet.

If you are not an expert on climate change, and the subject is far more complex than you realize, don't dogpile someone who holds a different position than the one you chose. Most of us are ignorant about this, so we should be humble and careful when speaking about things like that. When we speak post ignorantly, we are posting foolishly.

Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. Ephesians 5:4 (ESV)

3. I have a right to my opinion, but it doesn't have to be a public one.

I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, Matthew 12:36 (ESV)

We don't need to respond to every post with our opinion. Some of our opinions are best kept as just that, our opinions.

Jesus is coming soon, so love people more and more in practical ways. Jesus is coming soon so live a quiet life, not a loud and obnoxious life. Why is this? A loud and obnoxious life doesn't make Jesus attractive. A quiet life that genuinely cares about others makes Jesus attractive so we can reach the world with the good news.

3. Mind your own business.

...and to mind your own affairs,... 1 Thessalonians 4:11 (ESV)

This is the only time this word is used in the New Testament. We don't know the details of how the Thessalonians were not minding their own business. This may have been a general instruction, or Paul may have something specific he was addressing. I don't know. His point is simple. Stop worrying about everybody else's life. Mind your own business. Focus on your own life.

At the end of the day, when we stand before Jesus, and as Christians, that will be a judgment of rewards based on how we live. What will matter on that day is how someone else lived and the choices someone else made. What will matter is how we live and the choices we make. All of our talk, time, attention, and the gossip we spill over other people's lives is pointless. Know each of us will answer

for our lives before Jesus means we need to focus on our own life instead of other people's

A few years ago, we created a conflict resolution policy that all staff and leadership must follow. It is simple. It is Matthew 18. If you have a problem with someone, you talk to them about it, and if you are unsuccessful the first time, bring an elder with you. Persistent gossip and talking with other people in the church instead of there person you have a problem with in the church and lead to church discipline. We spelled it out in the conflict resolution policy, and you agreed to it when you joined the leadership team. Mind your own business.

Paul brings this topic up again in 2 Thessalonians. The Thessalonians were still struggling with this when he wrote his second letter to them.

For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. 2 Thessalonians 3:11 (ESV)

Some of you need to get a job and stop being busybodies. In Greek, a busybody means someone who goes from house to house, like a bee goes from flower to flower. These people were running around sticking their noses in everyone else's business when they needed to learn to mind their own business. If you have so much time to gossip about other people, Paul says, you must go to work. If you have plenty of time to gossip, it is because you need more work.

There is truth to that. If people have plenty of time to post on social media, they need a job. If they had a job, they wouldn't have as much free time on their hands to chat about other people's business. If they were busy serving people they also wouldn't have as much time to gossip about other people.

But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. 1 Peter 4:15 (ESV)

Peter says, if you are going to suffer in this world, don't let it be as a meddler. Don't suffer for meddling in other people's business. Mind your own business.

4. Get a Job.

...and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, 1 Thessalonians 4:11 (ESV)

Why weren't people working with their hands? Some of these Christians were so on fire for Jesus, especially with the impending return of Christ, that instead of going to work, they used their time to talk theology and share and evangelize the world. That sounds good until you realize somebody had to pay their bills. They were starting to rely on handouts from the church benevolence fund to meet their needs instead of going to work and meeting their own needs.

Paul says, Jesus may return soon, but you better pay your own way. Get a job. Don't wig out on me. Paul had to tell this to them a second time in 2 Thessalonians.

For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. 2 Thessalonians 3:11–12 (ESV)

Get a job and provide for yourself. Stop being a deadbeat. Stop depending on other people to meet your needs when you can provide for your own needs if you just get a job. Don't give super spiritual answers saying that Jesus is coming, so I quit my job, or I dropped out of college. Just get back to work to provide for yourself and help others in need.

Paul was forceful about this in 2 Thessalonians.

For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. 2 Thessalonians 3:10 (ESV)

This is something we don't usually hear in the church. If people won't get a job and try to provide for their needs, they should be hungry. Paul made a living making tents and providing for his own needs. Jesus made a living as a carpenter; that was the family business

With the return of Christ as a possibility, Paul tells Christians to do the exact opposite of what most people do. 1. Instead of caring about people less and focusing on themselves and their end-times agenda more, we are to love people more and more in practical ways. 2. Instead of being a loudmouth protester who is a public irritant, we should strive to live a quiet, peaceful, and gentle life. 3. Instead of gossiping about other people, we are to mind our own business and focus on our responsibilities, like family, church service, and our job. 4. Instead of quitting work, being lazy, and sitting on our roof in pajamas as we wait for Jesus to return, we should get a job, serve others, and pay our own way in life.

But how can this be? If Jesus is coming soon, why aren't we doing anything to reach people? Paul's point is that by living this way, we are reaching people.

Why won't loud-mouthed social protesters turn people to Jesus?

1. Our life should make Jesus attractive to outsiders.

...so that you may walk properly before outsiders... 1 Thessalonians 4:12a (ESV)

The key to evangelism is not a public strategy, a tract, an evangelism technique, or a billboard that tells people the end of the world is coming. The key

to evangelism is the integrity of an ordinary Christian life. In a troubled, messed up, loud-mouth world where people don't do their work, Christians who go out of their way to love people, who are peaceful and quiet, who mind their own business, who hold down a job in a slacker society make their lives attractive.

If we pursue these qualities, people will want to know what makes us different. Peaceful people who love others and do their work well create good will with others that opens the door to sharing the good news.

2. Our life should make Jesus attractive to insiders.

...and be dependent on no one. 1 Thessalonians 4:12b (ESV)

Just as our life should make Christ attractive to outsiders, our life should also make Jesus attractive to insiders. We do this by financially providing for ourselves so we are in a position to give to others, not just to receive from others. Of course, there are times when benevolence is necessary and good, but as Jesus said, it is more blessed to give than to receive. As is possible in our lives, we want to be in the position to give to others in the church, not just receive from them.



Dr. Kurt Trucksess is ordained in the Evangelical Free Church of America. He enjoys reading, writing, and time with his family. Feel free to contact him at www.Christ2RCulture.com (www.c2rc.com)

© You are permitted and encouraged to reproduce and distribute this material in any format provided (1) you credit the author, (2) modifications are clearly marked, (3) you do not charge a fee beyond the cost of reproduction, (4) you include the web address (www.Christ2RCulture.com) on the copied resource.

