1Thess #79

Practice love from a divine perspective.

PLEASE KEEP PASTOR BOB IN PRAYER. Also, Charolette up in New England really needs our prayer as well.

Open back up today in our core study of 1Thessalonians chapter 4.

Well, we closed out the doctrine of the RFHC after six hours of teaching, truthfully I could have gone another hour or two.

You get to a certain point where you realize you gave a large enough, swath of information that covers the majority of the principles for the lesson and God the HS gives you a nudge to move on.

Because every doctrine will pop up again and again over the course of many months and years of teaching.

So, we find ourselves back in the main study and content of 1Thessalonians chapter four.

Let’s read through some verses to get us back on track;

1Thes 4:3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification; *that is,* that you abstain from sexual immorality;

[1Th 4:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/4/4/s_1115004) that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,

[1Th 4:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/4/5/s_1115005) not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

[1Th 4:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/4/6/s_1115006) *and* that no one violate the rights and take advantage of his brother *or sister* in the matter, because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you previously and solemnly warned *you.*

This is what led us on a journey into the RFHC.

At this historic point the Apostle Paul became aware of a handful of Bels who were taking advantage of the other members of the congregation.

He realized some were also not staying faithful to Christ and they were dabbling in the Greek and Rome culture of temple prostitution and the party lifestyle.

[1Th 4:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/4/7/s_1115007) For God has not called us for impurity, but in sanctification.

We actually looked at the doctrine of sanctification recently as well, specifically highlighting Positional Sanctification and Experiential Sanctification.

[1Th 4:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/4/8/s_1115008) Therefore, the one who rejects *this* is not rejecting man, but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you.

When you buck against accurate Bible teaching and Biblical principles, you are not bucking the authority of a pastor - you are kicking directly against GOD!

[1Th 4:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/4/9/s_1115009) Now as to the love of the brothers *and* sisters, you have no need for *anyone* to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;

Brotherly love is the Greek word – *Philadelphia,* which has elements of deeper, personal affection then *agape*’*.*

Yet the Apostle Paul uses both types of love in this statement because he is highlighting important principles in relation to fellowship and intimacy.

At the end of verse 9 - we see the Greek word- *agapaō,; you yourselves are taught by God to love one another*;

/[1Th 4:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/4/10/s_1115010) **for indeed you practice it toward all the brothers *and sister***who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brothers *and sisters,* to excel *even* more,\

This love is Godly – it is impersonal, unconditional love that is referenced.

To practice love sounds dry or unloving, yet it is the most powerful love we have!

/Impersonal, unconditional love is a skill honed and applicable by those who begin to take God’s word and HIS plan seriously. The Apostle Paul is telling the Bels at Thessalonica, that they have done well. Even though a small group have gone astray, they need to maintain focus. They need to practice this love because it will lead to greater fellowship and intimacy among the Royal Family.\

Jump over to Romans chapter RF.

Impersonal, unconditional love conquers personality conflicts and petty arguments.

Impersonal, unconditional love is a driving factor behind the RFHC.

Impersonal, unconditional love is like the much-needed oil in a high-performance engine. Without that oil that engine will grind to a halt and breakdown.

Running a vehicle with no motor oil will fry the engine block.

The reason we see a term like - practice love, is because it is not the emotional love we see out in the cosmic system.

 REPEAT

/Gal 5:22 But **the fruit of the Spirit is love** (*agape)*, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

This is godly love achieved by consistency in the New Nature, it is a love Jesus Christ applied to everyone around HIM, even those who persecuted Him.\

There is a reason it is at the top of the fruit listing in relation to the Fruit of the Spirit – it powers the rest of your spiritual applications.

In Romans chapter five the Apostle Paul is carrying on a great lesson about justification.

He pointed out in chapter four no matter what the legalistic Jews are telling the Gentiles, there is no saving grace in simply being a Jew.

Being in the bloodline of Abraham, was their claim to justification and that has never been the case – it has always been faith alone in Christ alone.

Rom 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Faith is the non-meritorious system of perception; the object of faith has the merit.

It is in the person and work Jesus Christ that we are saved and given 40 grace gifts.

/[Rom 5:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/5/2/s_1051002) through whom we also have obtained our **introduction by faith into this grace**in which we stand; and we celebrate in hope of the glory of God.

The grace plan of GOD is what the CA Bels stand in. God’s grace is abundant in that it operates always, yet much deeper and more intimate with HIS own children.\

*We celebrate in the hope and glory of GOD* – this is a Greek present tense which speaks to a lifestyle of real confidence and assurance.

The original context tells us – we EXULT or exclaim with confidence in ELPIS (hope). Really pointing to a foundation of faith coming from a calm assurance.

/[Rom 5:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/5/3/s_1051003) And not only *this,* but we also celebrate in our tribulations, knowing that **tribulation brings about perseverance** (*hypomonē*);

A patient enduring, sustaining, perseverance during attacks and the challenges of this life.\

HOOP-OH-MAIN-O, speaks to an incredible, steadfast attitude no matter what just hit your life.

This only happens for a Bel who is well prepared.

[Rom 5:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/5/4/s_1051004) and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;

/The building blocks of accepting challenges and applying BD brings strength of character and more muscle to your faith. No Bel skips steps along the way, we all go through differing points of tests and challenges to apply BD. Spiritual growth is built from within at first and then the results come forth in actions or experiences. The key is to keep building a doctrinal library within your soul structure.\

Edification Complex of the soul.

Spiritual growth is a series of steps or building blocks that take time and effort.

/[Rom 5:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/5/5/s_1051005) and hope does not disappoint, **because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts** through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

All of these building blocks are dependent upon the fuel of impersonal, unconditional love to drive the engine in our soul. \

The HOPE we receive comes from knowing the integrity of God – knowing HIS divine essence.

The more you know about who God is and how the Triune GOD operates, the more you can build spiritual confidence.

[Rom 5:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/5/6/s_1051006) For while we were still helpless, at *the* right time Christ died for the ungodly.

Even while we were enemies - Jesus Christ loved us impersonally and unconditionally. He also loved us personally and intimately, which can only happen when your impersonal, unconditional love is at its peak.

 REPEAT

/The building blocks to good fellowship and intimacy among Bels, begins with the fuel of Impersonal, Unconditional (virtue) love surging through the Bels soul structure. That will feed divine integrity, honor, patience, forgiveness and mercy. Which in turn, opens up the grace attitude that is needed for personal love to develop foundational strength. \

You need a solid foundation under personal love because that love can be shaken and rocked at any given moment. It will only be virtue love that sustains and contains you in strength during those times.

The importance of taking God’s word seriously and having that fellowship with the WORD can’t be stressed enough. Because it is our relationship with Jesus Christ that promotes growth.

/1Jo 2:4 The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and **does not keep His commandments, is a liar,** and the truth is not in him; 5 but **whoever follows His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected**. By this we know that we are in Him:

Is the WORD of God resident in your soul to the point your lifestyle and norms and standards have been changed? It is not a question of sinless perfection.\

This is a fair question to ask yourself…if you have been born again and saved for more than two years can look backward and see some changes in your viewpoints or life skills?

/[1Jo 2:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1jo/2/6/s_1161006) the one who says that he remains in Him ought, himself also, **walk just as He walked**.

Greek present tense – the one who dwells (remains), lives or abides in HIM should have a lifestyle and viewpoint that is from HIM! \

We will close today in Colossians chapter 3 so feel free to go there.

/Having a lifestyle and viewpoint that reflects Jesus Christ does not mean flawless behaviors and pure thoughts every minute of the day. It points to a life that is changing and moving toward a Christ-like life. That life is only fueled by and strengthen by impersonal, unconditional (virtue) love.\

The best example I can give you is probably a healthy lifestyle.

Having a healthy lifestyle, points to exercise and eating healthy the majority of the time.

It doesn’t mean you live in the gym 24/7 and never eat a slice of pizza – that is unrealistic!

/The best changes a person makes that have real sustainability and success are usually smaller steps and subtle choices of change over long periods of time. It begins with recognition of who you are and where your weakness or challenges come from. Then taking responsibility to slowly chip away at the negative and accent the positive. \

Your spiritual growth is the same thing – this virtue love will develop over time.

It happens as we gain deeper fellowship with Christ by studying HIS mind (BD), as you begin to neglect the trends and lust patterns of the OSN at the same time.

The Colossians epistle is from the hand of the Apostle Paul. It was written during his first Roman imprisonment.

The Apostle Paul was punished for making a legalistic vow and being out of the plan of God. He went out of the geographical will of GOD and then operated in legalism.

He was in Jerusalem and made a vow in the temple with legalistic leaders, so as to impress Bels so they would accept his teaching.

The discipline was two years of prison in Caesarea and two years of prison in Rome. However, cursing was turned to blessing.

The rebound that occurred very shortly after his failure and the great blessings which have grown through the ages are seen in all of his teachings and in part this book of Colossians being one of them.

/Col 3:14 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, **put on a heart** of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, *and* patience;

This speaks to the build up of the Edification Complex in the soul – a doctrinal library and spiritual structure.\

This actually means the two power options are working and pressing you forward.

This means a relaxed mental attitude is part of your soul structure and that is developed by reaching toward maturity and allowing this virtue love fertile ground in your soul.

That love - once it grows, becomes a powerful fuel for your spiritual walk.

 REPEAT

/[Col 3:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/col/3/13/s_1110013) **bearing with one another, and forgiving** each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so *must* you *do* also.

This is the RFHC on display fueled by virtue love – keep on bearing with one another through the power of this love.\

Greek present tense – have a lifestyle of mercy, forgiveness and long suffering.

/[Col 3:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/col/3/14/s_1110014) In addition to all these things ***put on* love**, which is the **perfect bond of unity.**

The call to put on virtue love – is better interpreted as to call upon or add in, that which is already available.\

This means to practice – to apply this love.

The LOVE which is abundantly given through GOD the HS, because it is from the nature of Christ, is already available.

It is the one thing that can bring, peace harmony and unity when it is applied properly.

[Col 3:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/col/3/15/s_1110015) Let the peace of Christ, to which you were indeed called in one body, rule in your hearts; and be thankful.

This is only accomplished through the application of real, virtue love.

/This love is never faked or counterfeited though Satan tries – it is divinely inspired and powerful and all other love collapses in its presence. Because it is the foundational key to the formula of personal love relationships. \