

IMITATORS & EXAMPLES

A Series in 1 Thessalonians



LEADING AN EXEMPLARY CHRISTIAN LIFE

1 Thessalonians 4:9 – 12

1 THESSALONIANS 4:9 – 12

“Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. And in fact, you do love all of God’s family throughout Macedonia.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:9 – 12

Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more, and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody”.

- **The practice of Christian brotherly love
(vs. 9 – 10)**

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- **Self-controlled and focused lifestyle (vs. 11)**

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- **Self-controlled and focused lifestyle (vs. 11)**
- **The importance of work that is self-sufficient and God-honoring (vs. 11 – 12)**

**1. WE NEED TO GROW IN OUR LOVE
FOR ONE ANOTHER (VS. 9 – 10)**

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**It is Love that defines our Christian identity
(John 13:34 – 35)**

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John 13: 34 – 35

“A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so also you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

1. WE NEED TO GROW IN OUR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER (VS. 9 – 10)

Love is the distinguishing
“mark” of a Christian





CHRISTIAN BROTHERLY (RELATIONAL) LOVE IS UNIQUE



LOVE



CHRISTIAN BROTHERLY (RELATIONAL) LOVE IS UNIQUE



As Yourself
(Lev 19:18)



CHRISTIAN BROTHERLY (RELATIONAL) LOVE IS UNIQUE



As Yourself As Siblings
(Lev 19:18) (1 Thess. 4:9 – 10)



CHRISTIAN BROTHERLY (RELATIONAL) LOVE IS UNIQUE



As Yourself
(Lev 19:18)



As Siblings
(1 Thess. 4:9 – 10)



As Christ
(John 13)



OUR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER REVEALS HOW MUCH WE LOVE GOD (1 JOHN 4:20 – 21).

... For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. *And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.”*

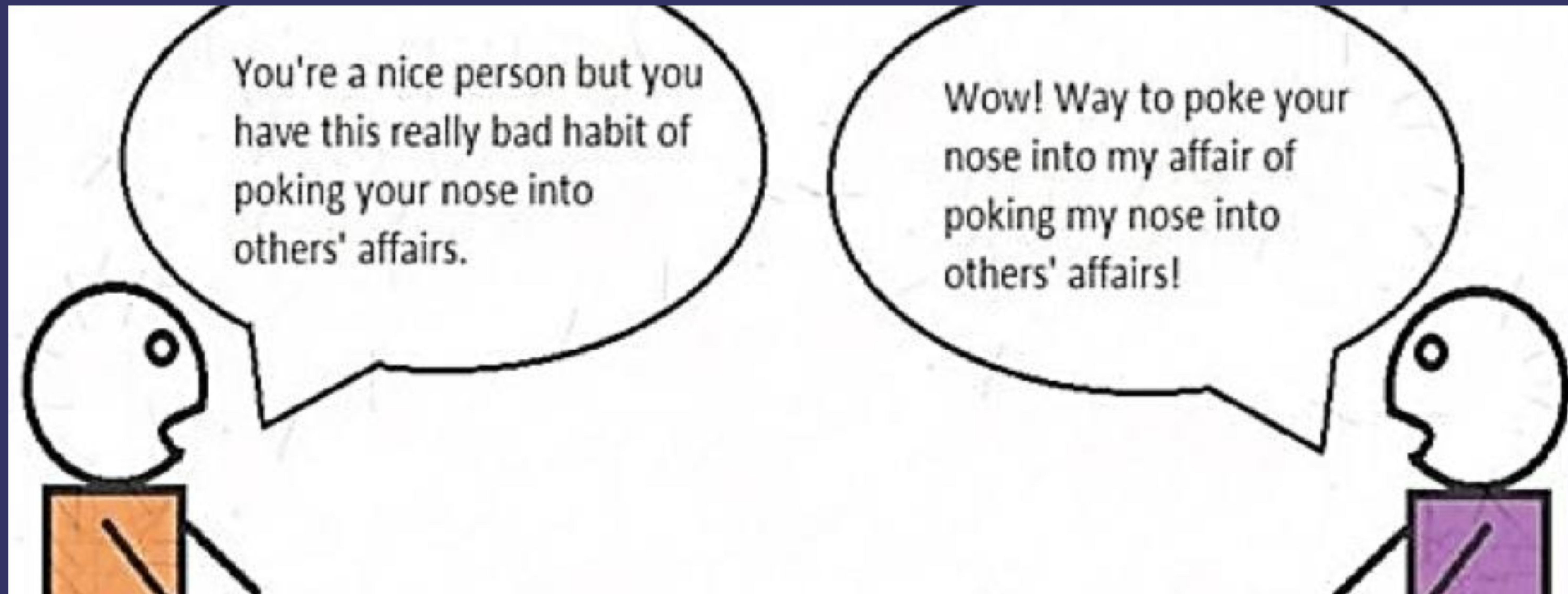


“If the world does not see this down-to-earth practical love, it will not believe that Christ was sent by the Father... The world has a right to question whether I am a Christian. And more than that, let me say it again, if I am not willing to do this very simple thing, the world has a right to question whether Jesus was sent from God and whether Christianity is true.”

— Francis Shaffer, *The Mark of the Christian*

2. LIVE A SELF-CONTROLLED AND FOCUSED LIFE

rather than meddling in others' business (vs. 11)



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rather than meddling in others' business (vs. 11)

- Maintain a quiet life defined by love and self-control rather than be distracted by others' matters
- Minding one's own business does not mean distancing from people

3. LEAD A GOD-HONORING, PEOPLE-CARING LIFESTYLE THROUGH WORK (VS. 12)

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- Work matters to God, not just to people
 - It is God's purpose for man to work (Gen. 2:15)
 - It is God's gift to man (Eccl. 3:13, 22)
 - Our God is a working God (Ps. 121:4, John 5:17)

3. LEAD A GOD-HONORING, PEOPLE-CARING LIFESTYLE THROUGH WORK (VS. 12)

- Your work impacts you, others and God's kingdom

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