



Sermon Questions

October 27, 2024 | Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 (Love)

Pre-study: 3 things from the sermon. *Note down 3 ideas, illustrations, quotes, or points that made an impression in the sermon.*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

1. **How does our identity as "kingdom citizens" affect our view of people who disagree with us politically?**
 - Reflect on how the gospel shapes our interactions with those who may hold opposing views.
2. **What does it mean to love others in a culture that often labels those with different views as "evil"?**
 - Discuss the challenges of embodying love in such an environment.
3. **How might the concept of the church as an "uncommon family" reshape our interactions with fellow believers?**
 - Reflect on specific ways this view could change relationships in your life.
4. **Given all of this, what role does hospitality play in showing love within the church and to outsiders?**
 - Share examples of hospitality you've experienced or shown and its impact on community.
5. **How can we see our work, whether paid or unpaid, as an expression of love for others?**
 - Discuss how our work can serve as a witness to the gospel by reflecting care for others.
6. **Why is it important to "live quietly, mind your own affairs, and work with your hands" as Paul suggests?**
 - Consider the quotation from Martin Luther below, and the example of Christ working as a carpenter for many years.

WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Reflect on these Scriptures:

- Leviticus 19:9-18
- Psalm 37
- Micah 6:6-8
- Matthew 5:43-48
- Romans 12
- James 2

Serve: Consider contributing to the [Project Belong Book Drive](#), and learning more about this ministry.

Pray: [Join the Mid-Week Prayer Meeting on Wednesday in person at MPC or remotely](#)

A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all. These two theses seem to contradict each other. If, however, they should be found to fit together they would serve our purpose beautifully. Both are Paul's own statements, who says in I Cor. 9 [:19], "For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all," and in Rom. 13 [:8], "Owe no one anything, except to love one another." Love by its very nature is ready to serve and be subject to him who is loved. So Christ, although he was Lord of all, was "born of woman, born under the law" [Gal. 4:4], and therefore was at the same time a free man and a servant, "in the form of God" and "of a servant" [Phil. 2:6-7].

Martin Luther, *The Freedom of a Christian*