

Growing Love

1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

10.4.26

1. Paul begins this section with a prayer directed toward “our God and Father Himself and Jesus our Lord.” What does this teach us about who is ultimately responsible for strengthening and directing the Christian life?
2. In verse 12, Paul prays that the Thessalonians’ love would “increase and abound.” What is the difference between simply having Christian love and having love that continually grows?
3. Paul says their love should abound “for one another, and for all people.” Why should Christian love extend beyond the people we naturally like or feel comfortable with?
4. What are some practical ways a believer can demonstrate increasing love toward difficult people, church members, neighbors, coworkers, or family members?
5. Jesus said in John 13:35, “By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” How does our love for other Christians serve as a witness to the world?
6. What can keep our love from growing? Consider things such as pride, bitterness, unforgiveness, selfishness, busyness, or focusing on other people’s faults.
7. In verse 13, Paul connects growing love with being “blameless in holiness” before God. How are love and holiness connected in the Christian life?
8. Paul points the believers toward “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all His saints.” How should the return of Christ motivate us to pursue greater love and holiness today?
9. What is one area of your life where you need to ask God to help your love “increase and abound”?
10. If someone watched your life this week, what evidence would they see that your love for God and others is growing?

Closing Question for Growing Love

What would it look like for our family group to become known not simply for what we believe, but for how deeply we love God and one another?