



## “Sharing is Caring”

September 6, 2020

**1 Thessalonians 2:1-12**

**Part 3 of “Build to Last”**

Last week: 1 Thess 1:2-10

2:8, “So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you **not only the gospel of God but also our own selves**, because you had become very dear to us.”

**For you yourselves know, brothers, that our coming to you was:**

**1. Not for \_\_\_\_\_ (2:1-6)**

V. 3-4, Denials

a. Not from \_\_\_\_\_

b. Not from \_\_\_\_\_

c. Not from \_\_\_\_\_

d. Not to please \_\_\_\_\_, but to please \_\_\_\_\_.

e. Not with words of \_\_\_\_\_, nor with a pretext for \_\_\_\_\_.

f. Nor did we seek \_\_\_\_\_.

**2. But for \_\_\_\_\_ (2:7-8)**

a. What does it mean to share souls?

“A shared soul is a shared \_\_\_\_\_ or a shared \_\_\_\_\_ or a shared \_\_\_\_\_ or a shared \_\_\_\_\_ or a shared \_\_\_\_\_.” (Piper)

b. 1:5-6, “Because our gospel came to you... you became \_\_\_\_\_ of us and of the Lord.”

**3. All for \_\_\_\_\_ (2:9-12)**

a. While we proclaimed to you the gospel of \_\_\_\_\_”

b. And charged you to walk in a manner worthy of \_\_\_\_\_, who calls you into \_\_\_\_\_ own kingdom and glory.

## For Family Discussion

What are some things we do for ourselves? (Either for recreation or responsibility.)

What are some things we do for others?

What are some things we do for God?

What can we do, or how can we think to make the first two categories also, ultimately, for God?

## Discussion Questions

Again (hopefully you already did this one of the last two weeks): grab a glass of water and a bowl of popcorn and read 1 & 2 Thessalonians in one sitting. Share your new observations with your group.

What accusations may have led to Paul's denials? What kinds of things might people have said to delegitimize his teaching?

Read verse 8. Who do you care about so much that you, first, can't help sharing the gospel with them, and, second, you go beyond that to share your own self [read: soul] with them?

*Luke 6:35. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return..." Who do you love to this degree with nothing to gain for yourself?*

What might motivate that level of caring and love for someone else?

What does it look like to “walk in a manner worthy of God?”

If our mission is to “point people to new life in Christ and then HELP THEM follow HIM as a way of life,” how are you **describing** that to your unbelieving friends, and how are you **demonstrating** it?

If you are NOT actively sharing the gospel with your existing circles of influence, what might motivate that in you? What's missing?

**This Week:** Identify one or two people in your life with whom you can begin both sharing the gospel AND sharing yourself, as Paul describes in verse 8. Perhaps, as a family, each person might identify someone. Then you can intentionally pray for them by name over dinner or breakfast, and keep each other accountable.

### **Pray Together**

*Heavenly Father, thank you for the gospel, good news of salvation. Forgive us for keeping it to ourselves far too much. Please give us boldness and such a deep caring for those around us to see them saved and not only saved, but show us how to disciple them, to teach them what you have taught us. Lord, please make me a disciple maker.*