

1 Thessalonians 4:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;

Analysis

And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more—kai gar poieite auto eis pantas tous adelphous tous en holē tē Makedonia. parakaloumen de hymas, adelphoi, perisseuein mallon (καὶ γὰρ ποιεῖτε αὐτὸς εἰς πάντας τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς τοὺς ἐν ὅλῃ τῇ Μακεδονίᾳ. παρακαλοῦμεν δὲ ὑμᾶς, ἀδελφοί, περισσεύειν μᾶλλον). The Thessalonians' love extended beyond their local church to **all the brethren in all Macedonia**—believers in Philippi, Berea, and other Macedonian cities. This regional love demonstrated authentic Christianity transcending local congregationalism. Yet even exemplary love requires growth: perisseuein mallon (περισσεύειν μᾶλλον, 'to abound more and more').

Paul's pattern repeats: affirmation ('ye do it') plus exhortation ('increase more and more'). This balance prevents both complacency (resting on present attainment) and discouragement (feeling nothing is ever enough). Love should continually increase—there's no ceiling to growth in grace. The phrase 'increase more and more' echoes 3:12 (love abounding) and 4:1 (pleasing God abundantly), establishing progressive sanctification as Christian life's pattern. Believers never 'arrive' but press toward the goal (Phil 3:12-14), always growing in love, faith, and holiness.

Historical Context

The Thessalonians' love for believers throughout Macedonia was remarkable given their own poverty and persecution. They apparently shared resources with other churches, hosted traveling believers, and maintained fellowship despite distances and difficulties. Paul later commended Macedonian churches (including Thessalonica) for extraordinary generosity: 'their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality... beyond their power' (2 Cor 8:2-3). This sacrificial love proved their faith's authenticity and established a model for churches throughout history.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does your love extend beyond your local congregation to believers regionally and globally?
2. What specific actions demonstrate that your love is 'increasing more and more' rather than static or declining?
3. How do you balance affirmation for present growth with exhortation toward continued increase without creating either complacency or discouragement?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	γὰρ	ποιεῖτε	αὐτὸ	εἰς	πάντας	τῇ	ἀδελφοί	τῇ
And	indeed	ye do	it	toward	all	which	brethren	which
G2532	G1063	G4160	G846	G1519	G3956	G3588	G80	G3588
ἐν	ὅλῃ	τῇ	Μακεδονίᾳ	παρακαλοῦμεν	δὲ	ὑμᾶς		
are in	all	which	Macedonia	we beseech	but	you		
G1722	G3650	G3588	G3109	G3870	G1161	G5209		
ἀδελφοί	περισσεύειν	μᾶλλον						
brethren	that ye increase	and more						
G80	G4052	G3123						

Additional Cross-References

1 Thessalonians 3:12 (Parallel theme): And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you:

Philippians 1:9 (Parallel theme): And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;

2 Thessalonians 1:3 (Parallel theme): We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

1 Thessalonians 1:7 (Parallel theme): So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia.