

# Propellers

February 13/14  
from Pastor Matt Frey

“KISS: Keep It Simple...” — 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

**Question of the week:** Together with your Small Group make a list of qualities of a person who loves well.

**Pathway to Life:** Has anyone had an opportunity to engage in a spiritual conversation with an unbeliever, or share your faith this week? Describe what happened.

**Prayer:** Ask God to transform you by the renewing of your minds in this time (Romans 12:2).

**Introduction:** There are times when life seems very complicated. Maybe that's because of our circumstances; or, perhaps, it's because of our perspective. And although it might be easy for us to assume we live in a more complicated world than people did 2,000 years ago, the challenges we are faced with today aren't necessarily worse, they are merely different than at other points in history. We know that because God spoke truth into the complicated culture of the young Thessalonian church through the apostle Paul who was encouraging them to *keep life simple* by honing in on godly priorities.

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 and discuss the following questions about loving and living with godly ambitions.

## Revisit the Sermon:

### 1. Love with the right corrections

- In v. 9 Paul says, “you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other.” What has God taught us about love? (*If you can, use the Bible to help you support your answers.*)
- How has God modeled love for us? (Read John 3:16; John 10:11-18; Romans 8:31-32 together as you answer.)

From time to time, tradesmen and artisans who work with instruments or tools must recalibrate them in order that their work is precise. A sailor whose compass is off of true north just a few degrees can end up in the wrong place if they are not aware. In the same way, it's easy for us to lose sight of our calling to love God and others and we can end up missing the mark.

- What are some of the practical things you can do to recalibrate, or love with the right corrections?
- How does God's love for you influence the way you love others? (*spouse, kids, family, co-workers, friends, strangers, etc.*)

### 2. Live with the right ambitions

- In verses 11-12 Paul goes on to address ambition. We are all driven, or motivated, by a variety of different ideas. How do you think the world perceives your ambitions? (One pastor loosely translates Matthew 6:21, “What your calendar and bank statements say, there your heart will be!” Consider where you invest your time and resources and how those reflect your ambitions.)
- How do you think the world perceives the ambitions of Pathway Church?
- What qualities, actions, or ambitions would you want the world to see about yourself or your church that would reflect the heart of God?

**Conclusion:** The gospel applies to every dimension of life — even the cracks and crevices. Jesus didn't die a horrible death so that we could do more church stuff amidst the rest of life's activity. He died to restore us back to God and renew everything about us and the way we live.

*Ask the Spirit of God to expose your ambitions, confess and repent of anything that motivates you besides the glory of God, and ask Him to recalibrate the desires of your heart.*