



September 14, 2025
Series: Week 2
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FAMILY MATTERS (1 Thessalonians 2)

Series' Big Idea – When our perspective begins UP with God's eternal truths and promises, and is brought DOWN to our daily words and actions, it leads to UPSIDE-DOWN LIVING.

In Upside-Down Living, we should intentionally see fellow believers as true brothers and sisters, and in the power of a transformed heart, live in that reality. (1 Thess. 2:1)

- “Brothers and sisters” is not a figure of speech but is what we truly are. (1 John 3:1&2) “Consider the incredible love that the Father has shown us in allowing us to be called ‘children of God’—and that is not just what we are called, but what we are. Our heredity on the Godward side is **no mere figure of speech...**”
- Jesus called Upside-Down Living “The Kingdom of Heaven.”
- This Kingdom of Heaven was central to Jesus’ teachings, and it represents both a present reality and a future hope.

Consider:

- How should we treat our fellow believers differently if they are actually our brothers and sisters?
- Why is it important that the “kingdom of heaven” is a present reality and not just a future hope?

Upside-Down families are there for each other even when it is not convenient. (1 Thess. 2:2)

Consider:

- What kinds of things get in your way that prevent you from serving those in your supernatural family?
- Are there ways you can prioritize others by “denying yourself”?

Upside-Down families should want to please God, and out of love for Him first then love each other without selfish motives. (1 Thess. 1:3-6)

Consider:

- Have you ever witnessed someone “serving God” for selfish motives? Consider the damage that this does to living eternal life now.

An Upside-Down family will love each other with a deep affection that causes them to care for each other's needs and leads to a deeper relationship. (1 Thess. 2:7-8)

- The greatest commandment is to “love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.”
- The second greatest commandment is to “love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these.”

Consider:

- How does your love for yourself compare for you love for your brothers and sisters?

Upside-Down families love each other with such a deep affection that relationships remind us of how wonderful heaven will be.

Consider:

- In what ways can we bring a “slice” of heaven to earth?

Upside-Down families live in such a way that we encourage our brothers and sisters to grow in their faith and live in a way that pleases God. (1 Thess. 2:9-13)

Consider:

- Have you been encouraged by your brothers and sisters to grow in your faith?
- How are you involved in encouraging your brothers and sisters to grow in their faith?

Further Study:

- Take time this week to look over the “Consider” questions. Ask them to yourself in the Lord’s presence and answer them truthfully. Then, perhaps sharing your answers with a friend or your life group can help you apply any steps you hope to take.
- During September and October, join us in our study of 1 and 2 Thessalonians, by reading it for yourself! Invite a friend to join you and engage together in what you are learning along the way.
- Participate in our lobby’s “Create Wall” initiative, as we look to gather artistic work from our church family. Paint, draw, sculpt, write, etc., as you honor the work of God and others who have inspired you in your life. You can turn them in to the Welcome Center by Sunday, September 28.

1 Thessalonians 2

You yourselves know, dear brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not a failure.² You know how badly we had been treated at Philippi just before we came to you and how much we suffered there. Yet our God gave us the courage to declare his Good News to you boldly, in spite of great opposition. ³ So you can see we were not preaching with any deceit or impure motives or trickery.

⁴ For we speak as messengers approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts. ⁵ Never once did we try to win you with flattery, as you well know. And God is our witness that we were not pretending to be your friends just to get your money! ⁶ As for human praise, we have never sought it from you or anyone else.

⁷ As apostles of Christ we certainly had a right to make some demands of you, but instead we were like children among you. Or we were like a mother feeding and caring for her own children. ⁸ We loved you so much that we shared with you not only God’s Good News but our own lives, too.

⁹ Don’t you remember, dear brothers and sisters, how hard we worked among you? Night and day we toiled to earn a living so that we would not be a burden to any of you as we preached God’s Good News to you. ¹⁰ You yourselves are our witnesses—and so is God—that we were devout and honest and faultless toward all of you believers. ¹¹ And you know that we treated each of you as a father treats his own children. ¹² We pleaded with you, encouraged you, and urged you to live your lives in a way that God would consider worthy. For he called you to share in his Kingdom and glory.

¹³ Therefore, we never stop thanking God that when you received his message from us, you didn’t think of our words as mere human ideas. You accepted what we said as the very word of God—which, of course, it is. And this word continues to work in you who believe. ¹⁷ Dear brothers and sisters, after we were separated from you for a little while (though our hearts never left you), we tried very hard to come back because of our intense longing to see you again. ¹⁸ We wanted very much to come to you, and I, Paul, tried again and again, but Satan prevented us. ¹⁹ After all, what gives us hope and joy, and what will be our proud reward and crown as we stand before our Lord Jesus when he returns? It is you! ²⁰ Yes, you are our pride and joy.