



# Gospel-Shaped Conduct

1 Thessalonians 2:7b-12

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As a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children, having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.

For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

# 1 Thessalonians 2:1-7a

You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children, so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

## **Main Point**

The apostles' conduct among the Thessalonians demonstrated the life-shaping power of the gospel and set an example for them to follow in their own lives and community.

The background is a faded map of Europe, showing major landmasses and some geographical labels. The text is overlaid on this map.

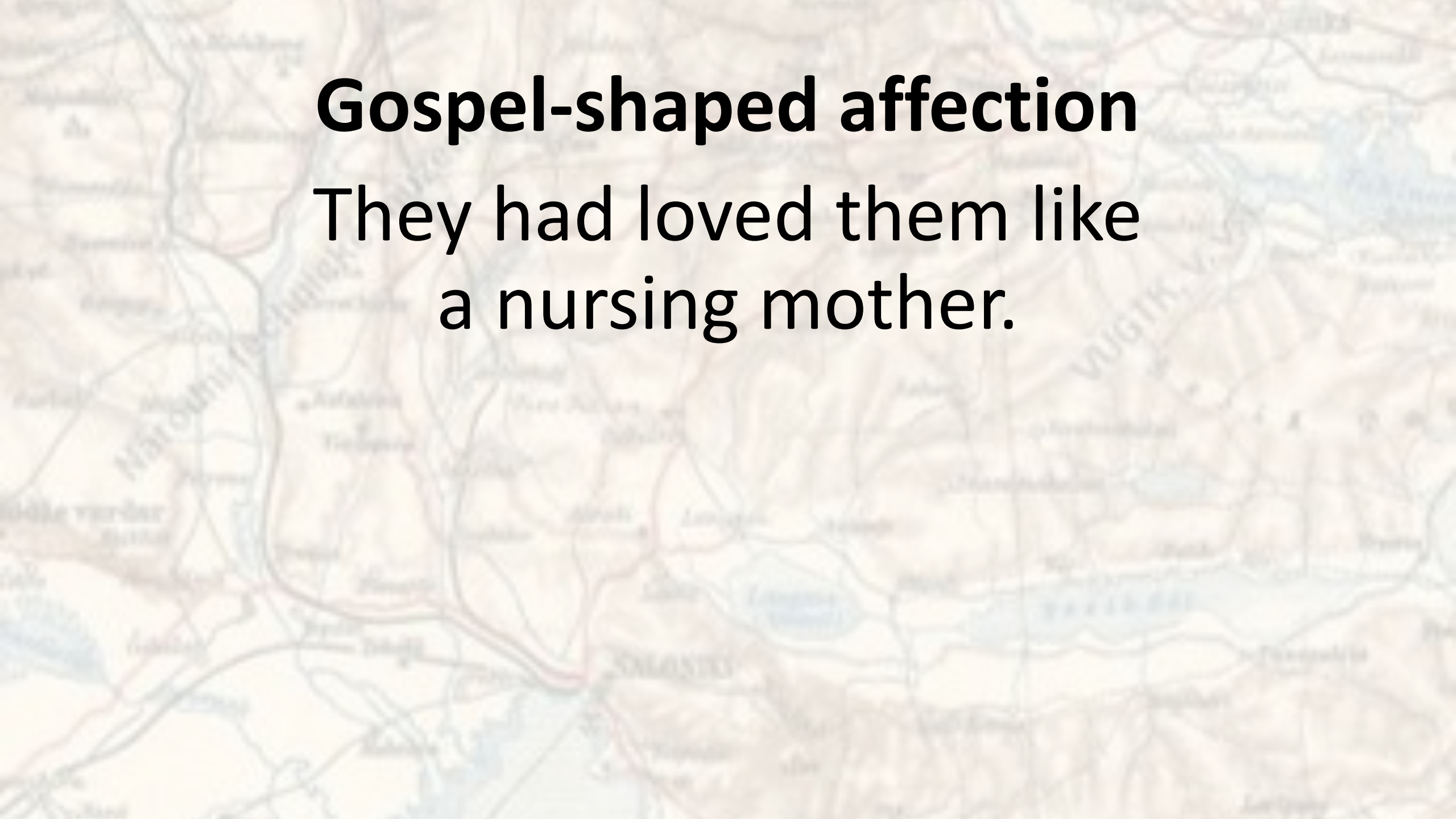
# **Gospel-Shaped Conduct**

## **Their gospel-shaped affection.**

## **1 Thessalonians 2:7b-8**

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Their love and affection for the Thessalonians was shaped by the gospel because love is both defined and demonstrated in it and is empowered by it.



**Gospel-shaped affection**  
They had loved them like  
a nursing mother.



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# Background

## Isaiah 66:12-13

For thus says the LORD,  
“Behold, I extend peace to her like a river,  
And the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream;  
And you will be nursed,  
you will be carried on the hip and fondled on the knees.  
As one whom his mother comforts,  
so I will comfort you.”

**1 Thessalonians 2:7b-8**

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her own children,**

having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased  
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to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also  
our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.

Their conduct and care toward  
the Thessalonians was an overflow  
of gospel affection.



# **Gospel-shaped affection**

They had loved them like a nursing mother.

**They had shared their own lives  
with them.**



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## 1 Thessalonians 2:7b-8

As a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children,  
having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased

**to *share with you*** not only the gospel of God but also  
our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.

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but also

our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:7b-8

As a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children,  
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to share with you ***not only the gospel of God*** *but also*  
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having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased

to share with you not only the gospel of God **but also**

**our own lives**, because you had become very dear to us.

This may have included their persecutions but more likely referred to the focus of their attention.

They had given up *themselves* on behalf of the Thessalonians.

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having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased  
to share with you not only the gospel of God but also

our own lives, **because you had become**  
**beloved to us.**

**They were loved first by God.**

**1 Thessalonians 1:1-4**

We give thanks to God always for all of you...

brethren **beloved by God.**

**God's love shaped Paul's love.**

**1 Thessalonians 2:8**

**...you had become beloved to us.**

## **Philippians 1:8**

For God is my witness, how I long for you all  
with the affection of Christ Jesus.

## **Philippians 1:8**

For God is my witness, how I long for you all

**with the affection of Christ Jesus.**

This is gospel-shaped affection.

# Gospel-Shaped Conduct

Their gospel-shaped affection.

Their gospel-shaped devotion.

## **1 Thessalonians 2:9-10**

For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers.

The gospel has the power to transform the orientations and devotions of the heart resulting in transformed conduct.



A faded topographic map of a region, likely in the Balkans, showing a network of rivers and towns. The map is light-colored with blue lines for rivers and brown lines for roads or boundaries. The text is overlaid on the map.

# **Gospel-shaped devotion**

They had labored night and day.

## **1 Thessalonians 2:9**

For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

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how **working night and day** so as not to be a burden  
to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

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For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship,

how working night and day **so as not to be a burden**  
**to any of you**, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:9

For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship,

how working night and day **so as not to be a *weight***  
**to any of you**, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:6-7a

...nor did we seek glory from men,  
either from you or from others,

**even though as apostles** of Christ

***we had weight,***

but we became like infants among you.

As apostles, they could have received or even demanded honors associated with their position, but the gospel moved them to self-sacrifice.



## 1 Thessalonians 2:9

For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship,

how working night and day **so as not to be a *weight***  
**to any of you**, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

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For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship,  
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to any of you, **we proclaimed to you the  
gospel of God.**

A faded, light-colored map of a region, possibly in the Middle East, showing a network of roads and rivers. The map is the background for the text. The word 'Naioum' is visible on the left side, and 'SALONIKI' is visible at the bottom center. The map is rendered in a low-contrast, almost monochromatic style with light brown and blue tones.

# **Gospel-shaped devotion**

They had labored night and day.

**They had conducted themselves with  
deep devotion and gospel integrity.**

## **1 Thessalonians 2:10**

You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:10

You are witnesses, and so is God, **how devoutly**  
and uprightly and blamelessly **we behaved**  
toward you believers.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:10

You are witnesses, and so is God, **how** devoutly  
and **uprightly** and blamelessly **we behaved**  
toward you believers.

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You are witnesses, and so is God, **how** devoutly

and uprightly and **blamelessly we behaved**

toward you believers.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:10

You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly  
and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved

**toward you believers.**

Their conduct *among* them had been  
due to their devotion *to* them.



## 1 Thessalonians 2:10

You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly

and uprightly and blamelessly **we behaved**  
**toward you believers.**

## 1 Thessalonians 2:10

**You are witnesses, and so is God**, how devoutly

and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved  
toward you believers.

Ultimately their conduct was due to their devotion to God and to their desire to please Him and to represent His gospel with integrity.

## 1 Thessalonians 2:9

For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship,  
how working night and day so as not to be a *weight*

to any of you, **we proclaimed to you**  
**the gospel of God.**



# Gospel-Shaped Conduct

Their gospel-shaped affection.

Their gospel-shaped devotion.

Their gospel-shaped intention.

## **1 Thessalonians 2:10-12**

You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children, so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

## **1 Thessalonians 2:10-12**

You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children,

**so that** you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

The gospel not only transforms our personal goals and life orientation, but it transforms our mission and intention toward others.



A faded topographic map of a region, likely in the Balkans, showing a network of roads and rivers. The map is light-colored with various shades of brown, tan, and blue. A prominent river, the Vardar, flows from the top left towards the bottom center. Other rivers and smaller streams are visible throughout the landscape. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the map.

# **Gospel-shaped intention**

They had intended to equip them.

## **1 Thessalonians 2:11**

Just as you know how we were exhorting  
and encouraging and imploring each one of you  
as a father would his own children.

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as a father would his own children.

# **An aside to fathers...**

**Ephesians 6:4**

**Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger,  
but bring them up in the discipline  
and instruction of the Lord.**

## 1 Thessalonians 2:11

Just as you know how **we were exhorting**  
and **encouraging and imploring** each one of you  
as a father would his own children.

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Just as you know how we were exhorting

and encouraging and imploring **each one of you**

as a father would his own children.

## **Ephesians 4:11-13**

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets,  
and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,  
for the equipping of the saints for the work of service,  
to the building up of the body of Christ;  
until we all attain to the unity of the faith,  
and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man,  
to the measure of the stature which belongs  
to the fullness of Christ.



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and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man,  
to the measure of the stature which belongs  
to the fullness of Christ.



# **Gospel-shaped intention**

They had intended to equip them.

**They had intended to motivate them.**

## 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12

Just as you know how **we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you** as a father would his own children, so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

## **1 Thessalonians 2:11-12**

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**so that** you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

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Just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children,

so that **you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you** into His own kingdom and glory.

## **Philippians 1:27**

Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.

Their intention was to motivate the Thessalonians to live out their faith in the whole of their lives to the glory of God.

## **1 Thessalonians 2:11-12**

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so that **you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you** into His own kingdom and glory.



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**who calls you into His own  
kingdom and glory.**

# Conclusion

Are your affections being shaped  
by the gospel?

Are your devotions -- your commitments and  
aspirations -- being shaped by the gospel?

Is it your great desire to help others  
grow up in and live out of their faith.