

THE IMPORTANCE OF LOVE

By

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Paul learned contentment

- By realizing that the Lord is at Hand (4:5)
- By thinking right (4:8)
 - Our thoughts are important (Prov. 23:7; Mk. 7:20-23)

Think about things

- **True** - *To be valid; to be true; to be accurate; to be factual, bona fide, genuine, real.* (Practical Word Studies in the New Testament)
 - God's word is truth (1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)
 - Meditate upon it (Psa. 1:1-6)
- **Noble** - *Worthy of respect, grave, dignity, highly respected, serious, honorable, worthy, revered, noble.* (Practical Word Studies in the New Testament)
 - Think about the serious things in life: salvation (ours and others); life to come, etc.

Think about things

- **Just** - *Upright, just, fair, honest, innocent, proper, above board in his behavior and dealings with both God and man.*—Practical Word Studies in the New Testament
 - Think about God's dealings with us
 - Think about fair and honest dealings with others (Matt. 23:14)
- **Pure** - *To be pure from all fault; to be clean and holy and free from all defilement; to act and behave in the most pure and modest way possible.*—Practical Word Studies in the New Testament
 - It may change the way we dress (2 Tim. 2:9-10)
 - The way we speak (Eph. 4:29; Col. 4:6)

Think about things

- **Lovely** - *Lovely, pleasing, winsome, kind, gracious; things that excite love and kindness. — Practical Word Studies in the New Testament*
 - Not thoughts of unkindness and meanness, grumbling and murmuring, criticism and reaction – but things that are lovely—that build up people, not tear them down
 - Example: Abigail (1 Sam. 25)
- **Good report** - *Admirable; of good repute; of good report. It means worthy of praise, reputable, high-toned, things of the highest quality. — Practical Word Studies in the New Testament*
 - Not thinking upon *bad reports, nor with junk, whether through rumor, radio, television, music, off-colored jokes, or by whatever source.*

If there is any

- **Virtue** - *Goodness, virtue; moral excellence and goodness of character; moral strength and moral courage.* —Practical Word Studies in the New Testament
- **Praiseworthy** - *commendation, applause, acclaim, approval, endorsement, worthy of praise* —Practical Word Studies in the New Testament