

God's Ways for Church Life

1 Thessalonians 5:12-15 March 21, 2021 Pastor Adam Hall

Introduction and Review

- we are in the section of 1 Thessalonians, Chapters 4-5
 - † 1 Thessalonians 4-5 is the exhortation section in Thessalonians
 - † 4:1-2 Paul's exhortation to live a life that honors the Lord
 - † 4:3-8 – Paul's exhortation to sexual purity
 - † 4:9-12 – Paul's exhortation to love one another and work hard
 - † 4:13-5:11 – Paul's teaching on the 2nd coming of Jesus and His exhortations with regards to the 2nd coming of Jesus
 - † 4:12-13 – Paul's exhortation on church leadership
 - † 4:14-15 – Paul's exhortation on church life
 - † 4:16-18 – Paul's exhortation on prayer
 - † 4:19-22 – Paul's exhortation on discerning truth

What precedes today's scripture passage?

- prayer concerning L _____ and H _____

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³ so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

- instructions on I _____ and p _____ holiness (4:1-5:22)

1 Thessalonians 5:23 Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- reminder: we do _____ obey these commands to become a Christian
- Jesus saves us by g _____: delivers us from God's w _____ to come, brings us from the darkness to the l _____
- we all belong/ed to the n _____. Only Jesus can make us a people of the d _____!
- we need the grace of God to s _____ us and we need grace to enable us to l _____ out these commands

1 Thessalonians 5:12-15 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹²We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. ¹⁴And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. ¹⁵See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.

1) (5:12-13a) The Church's Relationship to Church Leadership

(5:12) We ask you, brothers, to respect

- here Paul "asks" these Thessalonians to b_____ in a certain way
- "brothers" reminds them that they are in the f_____ of God
- the believer ought to have an attitude of r_____ for church leadership
- Paul is referring to the office of e_____

- Paul appointed elders in the churches to lead the congregations

Acts 14:23 And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Titus 1:5 This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you—

- the Greek word translated "r_____" actually means "to know"

- Jesus has ordained that elders be the a_____ for the church

Role of Elders/Pastors:

A) those who labor among you

- Paul gives clear teaching in his other letters about what this labor looks like

2 Timothy 4:2 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

2 Timothy 4:5 As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

- so the labor of elders is to _____ the Word and to _____ Christians
- and also the work of evangelizing _____

B) and are over you in the Lord

- elders are to care _____ for and lead _____ the congregation
- this word “over you” can also mean show care _____ and care _____!
- we see this instruction for submission _____ to church leadership in Paul’s letters as well as in Hebrews

1 Timothy 5:17 Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

- elders are to provide leadership and guidance _____ to the congregation through the means of teaching _____/preaching _____ the Word of God therefore we submit _____ ourselves to the leadership who is guided by God and His Word.

C) and admonish you,

- meaning that they exhort _____, encourage _____ and guide _____ the people of God in the Word of God

D) (5:13a) and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work.

- relationship: the elders serve _____ the congregation with leadership, teaching, exhortation and service and the congregation responds with submission, respect, honor and love _____

2) (5:13b-15) The Church's Relationship to Each Other

- we have responsibilities towards one another
- there are about _____ "one another" passages in the New Testament

- Paul gives 7 **commands** for the body of believers

A) (5:13b) Be at peace among yourselves.

- Jesus Christ created us and saved us to have peace with God therefore, there ought to be p_____ amongst the people of God

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- according to Jesus, being the s_____ of the earth is connected to the people of God being at peace with one another

Mark 9:50 Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

- the Lord Jesus wants p_____ for His body!

Romans 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

B) (5:14) And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle,

- Paul remind them of their position in f_____ of the Lord Jesus Christ
- now they belong to the family of God through Jesus and they must l_____ like it!

- "those who are i_____" has been translated "loafers"

- this means _____

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 and to aspire to live quietly, and to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we instructed you, ¹² so that you may walk properly before outsiders and be dependent on no one.

- the idle believers were putting pressure on the church causing the church to care for those that could actually take c_____ of themselves

C) encourage the fainthearted, (5:14)

- we are called here to e _____

- fainthearted : _____

D) help the weak, (5:14)

- the word "help" here is often translated "h _____ f _____"

E) be patient with them all. (5:14)

- commanded to be patience with _____ people

- we are e _____ by the Holy Spirit and are called to have the f _____ of the Spirit be evident in our lives

F) (5:15) See that no one repays anyone evil for evil,

- re _____ ion is not how we ought to live our life!

- we have sinned against Him, but the grace of God teaches us that the Lord does _____ treat us as we deserve, we are treated far better than we deserve

- while we were e _____, Christ died for us!

Romans 5:10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

- what does the Lord extend to us? Rec _____ n!

G) but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. (5:15)

- extending goodness to one another, but not just others in the church, but to _____!

- but Jesus calls us to do g _____!

Application

1) Look At The Chief Leader Over The Church

- no pastor, no elder, no church leader -- no Christian for that matter, is p _____ but we can look to our chief shepherd and see His perfection!

- I ____k at His wonderful work on our behalf in this letter

1 Thessalonians 1:10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 4:14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.

- what do we s____ in all of these verses above? We see a g____ful and m____
s____!

- just like the song that we sing says...

“Wonderful merciful savior Precious redeemer and friend

Who would have thought that a lamb could Rescue the souls of man “

- we must keep our e____ fixed upon the Lord Jesus and His work

- when we keep our eyes fixed on J____, I can assure you any offense done to you will not will not matter that much anymore, because we see the beauty and grace of Christ

- our focus will move from one of s____-serving to s____ others!

- if you are outside the grace of Christ, consider Jesus and what He has done for you!

- He has died in the place of sinners and even his enemies so that those who t____ in Him can have eternal l____.

- t____ from your sinful life and t____ the perfect sinless savior!

2) Lord Help Me Live This Way!

- some might think that these s____ commands in 1 Thessalonians 5:13-15 just seem impossible for us to live out; these commands come from the mouth of God!

- this week I encourage you to ponder these c____, c____ your sins

- preach to y____ the grace of Christ and cry out to God for the Holy Spirit to t____ you!

- c____ your pride, your desire to get pay back, and your desire to not be a peace maker

- s____k Jesus Christ and His work, s____ the aid of God, the Holy Spirit!

- cry out to the H____ S____ and beg that He would work a miracle of grace in your heart and change your heart to the glory of God

- By the power of the holy spirit let the fruits of the spirit be evident in our lives and not the works of the flesh!

Galatians 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

**Prepare for next Sunday:
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

**Good Friday Service
April 2
Sign up to reserve you seat.**