

1Thessalonians 5:12-28

A General Reminder About Being a Well-Rounded and Obedient Follower of Christ.

Introduction: In the last part of Chapter 5, Paul gives a number of reminders to the Thessalonians about what is expected of a well-rounded and growing Christian.

These are very practical areas which are important for every believer to focus on. He is giving almost like an over view about what the life of a mature believer should look like.

A mature believer is not a Christian who goes to church every Sunday, memorizes lots of scripture, or can talk in depth about the most difficult doctrines.

A mature believer is a believer who faithfully practices these and other principles from the Word in his/her daily life.

Teaching Points:

(v. 12) “Now we ask you, brothers and sister, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord.

Show appreciation toward Christians workers and your spiritual leaders: this passage is here because it is important for us to remember our spiritual leaders. God wants us to do it.

Every single one of us has people who have dedicated their own time and energy into teaching us the word and serving in Christ.

What this does not mean;

That Christian workers should not do things in order to get recognized. Should not seek recognition.

(Matt. 6:4) “So that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

[Q] Why should we show appreciation?

[Q] So the how can we show appreciation?

A. We can Pray for them. Read (1Tim. 2:1-2)

B. We can Follow them in such a way that does not bring them grief or heartache. Read (Heb. 13:17).

C. We should express words of affirmation - this is one of the five love languages. It is completely appropriate to show love toward Christian workers. Paul even commands it . He says to “esteem them”

(v.13) “Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work.

Since this passage tells us to show love to those who work among us, there are other five languages which are appropriate to express our love and appreciation to them.

D. Acts of service - [Q] is there a way you could serve your pastor/teacher/servant leader.

E. Gifts - Is there a gift which could express your appreciation ?

(13b) Live in peace with one another - read (Rom.12:18)

(v.14) "And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle, and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

This (verse) is for every believer (all of us) not just the leaders but also the members of the body - each has a part and we are to be helping and building up each other on a regular basis.

A. Admonish (rebuke) the unruly - warn those who aired idle and disruptive.

We are to remind them about the relevant Scriptures which can help them in the areas they are struggling with. If the church doesn't correct its own, who is going to?

B. (14b) Encourage the fainthearted - Encouragement is one of the key themes of the book of 1Thessalonians.

C. Help the weak - [Q] Can you think of any examples in the Bible of people who were weak who received help? Any examples of people who were weak or fainthearted and did not receive the help they needed?

[Q] What should we do when someone falls?

D. Be patient with everyone - notice the word "everyone."

Here are just a few things some of us may do when we are NOT being patient with others

roll our eyes

sigh

Complain to others about so and so

Raise our voice

Interrupt

Yell

Stop listening

Look at our watch or time repeatedly

(v.15) "Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do good for each other and for everyone else.

""See that no one repay evil with evil." (Rom.12:21)

This ideals prevalent throughout the Bible.

(1Peter 3:9)

(Luke 23:34)

(2Sam. 16) the story of David's response to the man who cursed him.

Seek - Doing good toward those who mistreat us is not a natural thing.
Paul says always strive for good - that mean we can't pick and choose when or whom we will do this.

It doesn't depend on who did evil got you.
It doesn't depend on how many times they did it.
It doesn't depend on how much it hurt.

No matter who they are or what they did, God requires you to seek after their good each and every time.

(16) Rejoice always,

(17) Pray continually,

(18) give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God.

(19) Do not quench the Spirit.

(20) Do not treat prophecies with contempt,

(21) but test them all; hold on to what is good

(22) reject every kind of evil.

(23) May God Himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

(24) The one who calls, you is faithful and He will do it.

(25) Brothers and sisters, pray for us,

(26) Greet all God's people with a holy kiss.

(27) I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers and sisters.

(28) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.