

Paul's First Epistle To The

THESSALONIANS

CHAPTER 5:12-15

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TITLE:

**“ HOW A CHURCH OUGHT TO PRACTICE “
AWAITING THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST**

THEME:

1 Thessalonians 1:10

*“We are to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even
Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”*

INTRODUCTION: Reading of the Text 5:12-15

Luke 11:11

"If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? :12 "Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? :13 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

“ HOW A CHURCH OUGHT TO PRACTICE “

What are the essentials for a happy, thriving church family? How can we make our fellowship more spiritual to the glory of God?

Without leadership a family falls apart and without the structure of a Father, a home will go towards chaos.

Without the leadership of the mother over children, the children will grow up to be dysfunctional in how they think, act and live their lives

In Martin L. Gross' book "The Psychological Society" he states that there are 60,000 guidance workers in the American school system and another 7,000 school psychologist which he says are filling the gap that their parents have created - They've become substitute Parents

Children need Counseling (not from a paid professional - but from a loving parent) and the parent of that child is the only one who can, and should give the foundation blocks for living life...

Remember the First day of Jr. High School

The school counselor - "Son if you ever need anything - you just come see me...
(I felt strange with that, I appreciated it, but felt a little strange with that...

What I needed was \$5.00 to get me to the beach just then)

No, My Father would be the one to talk to - the who raised me, instructed me
by word or by deed

What should be Our Responsibility
to those over us...

1.) Practicing Home Grown Leadership v.12-13

This Church had Been Born and Born Again Together - Familiarity !!!

1 Thessalonians 5:12

And we **urge** you, brethren, to **recognize** those who **labor** among you, and are
over you in the Lord and **admonish** you,

a) We Are to Accept Them vv. 12a

And we **urge** you, brethren, to **recognize**
those who **labor** among you

the thought is "That they are Gifts given by God to us" and we are to accept them and their labor because
God has appointed them.

It's Bad enough to refuse a gift,

It's Stupid to refuse any of God's Gifts.

We are to be receiving them !!

The True Pastor is Dedicated to
"The Building Up of The Believers"

Ephesians 4:11

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists,
and some pastors/teachers, :12 **for** the **equipping** of the saints for
the **work** of **ministry**, for the **edifying** of **the body** of Christ,

the Equipping of the saints:

*

Equipping GRK atartismos (kat-ar-tis-mos)

to complete thoroughly the job, to repair what is broken or adjust or realign to fit again, prepare, restore. To prepare for battle or for the race to instruct "How to" hold the armor

the Work of ministry:

the WORK "of hard toiling" to MINISTER "to give others "relief"

A Doctor or a Nurse in a Hospital who ministers to the point of exhaustion to bring others relief of soul & spirit

the Edifying of the body:

*

Edifying GRK 3619 oikodome (oy-kod-om-ay')

in feminine gender in grk. meaning to design a structure, or a pedestal to display something very valuable before all

Matthew 24:1

Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the **buildings** of the temple.

If a Pastor Does His Job Well. The Body will serve itself well

Romans 14:19

Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may **edify** another.

Romans 15:2

Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to **edification**.

1 Corinthians 14:3

But he who prophesies speaks **edification** and exhortation and comfort to ALL.

I REMEMBER A PHONE CALL THIS WEEK, HOW THE LORD LED ME TO TALK TO THIS PERSON IN JUST THIS WAY...

YOU ARE TO "ACCEPT" THE PASTORAL DUTIES PERFORMED BECAUSE THEY COME FROM A HEART OF LOVE AND FEAR TOWARD GOD AND THE BODY OF CHRIST

b) We Are to Appreciate Them

vv. 12b

"recognize "those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you,

*

Recognize GRK

is to respect them for the Position, The Calling and the Gifting

It's Acceptable to Respect spiritual leaders within the church as long as God gets all the glory for what is being accomplished

WE PRAY FOR OUR SPIRITUAL LEADERS

it is a dangerous thing when a church fails to pray for its Pastor and leaders

The Very People That The Pastor Desires To reach Are often Not willing To Receive - TAKE FOR GRANTED

BUT - the people who are Growing the most in Church and in their Faith

ARE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE GETTING OUTSIDE THEMSELVES !!!

Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. :25 "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

AN EXAMPLE OF THIS:

Acts 13:52

And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. (READ ACTS 13 CAREFULLY - THEY WERE ALSO ATTACKED FOR BEING CHRISTIANS)

They'll see Jesus bigger, the Word more powerful, Grace

c) We Are to Love Them

vv. 12c

"recognize "those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you,

For a Pastor to be **among you**, and **over you** at the same time Demands the Grace and Power of the Holy Spirit - (Our Office Here)

THIS CAN BE A DIFFICULT LINE TO WALK

A Pastor who is worried about having authority will naturally go about seeking to establish and maintain a rule and presence of Authority (often leading to a dictatorship over the body)

A Pastor who is worried about being a friend to everyone will naturally go about desiring to be everybody's best friend (often leading to an undermining of the Pastoral position)

A BALANCE MUST BE MAINTAINED, BECAUSE,

We are all Brothers and Sisters in the Family of God.... But God has Called some "Among Us to be Over You" and to Lead you on in your walk,,,

who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and **admonish** you,

1 Thessalonians 5:13

and to **esteem** them very highly in love for their work's sake.
Be at **peace** among yourselves.

d) We Are to Obey Them

vv. 13a

When a Servant of God, Empowered by the Spirit, Points you to the Word of God We are to Obey their Leading.....

Hebrews 13:17

Obey **those who rule over you**, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

1. *We are to Obey Them*

vv. 17a

Obey those who rule over you

A Warning is in Order to All Here

Our Culture is Opposed to this Command
(We are Individualists and Blindly Independent as a People)

2. *We are to be Submissive to them* vv. 17b

and be submissive,

* Submit GRK 5226 hipeiko (hoop-i'-ko);
to surrender, to step aside. to let through
or give the right of way

The very command and instruction to submit presupposes the
situations will arise

But Obeying them and Submitting to them
is a key to Our Spiritual Growth

When a Pastor Tells You

"Hey, The Bible says 'No Sex Before Marriage' are you're getting upset with the
pastor or with God and His Word ?

#1 their obedience *to the Lord coupled with*

#2 our obedience *to them, will*

#3 result in a *joyous life and ministry where everybody is growing and flowing in the Lord...*

- As long as I'm *going in the direction the Lord is - I'll be fine*
- As long as you *are going in the direction the Lord is - you'll be fine*
- As long as We *are going in the direction the Lord is - we'll all be fine.*

3. *We are to be a Blessing to Them* vv. 17

for that would be unprofitable for you.

it will be to your own benefit to Obey Them...

Verse 13b

The Results of a church family
following a godly leader will be "Peace and Unity"

A CHURCH WHERE THERE IS GOSSIP, DIVISION, AND CLIQUES
YOU WILL FIND EITHER:

#1 carnal leadership or #2 carnal people passing through or #3 both left unchecked will destroy a church

But God's will is Galatians 5:22
But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness,
goodness, faithfulness,

2.) The Church Is A Family Practice

“Brother to Brother, Ours in Life and Death”

The Church is a Family in Action

1 Thessalonians 5:14
Now (we) **exhort** you, brethren, **warn** those who are **unruly**,
comfort the **fainthearted**, uphold the **weak**, be **patient** with all.

The Pastor and Associates and the Deacons and Laymen are not to do all the ministering -
That would be disastrous to the body!

Ephesians 4:13
till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son
of God,

Warren Wiersbe tells of the signs that precede the death of a local church

#1 The Body begins

to believe that the pastor is paid to do the ministry

#2 The Body feels

neglected because they now have a burned out pastor

#3 The Body becomes

weak and then dies, but not before they blame the pastor

Now we exhort **(you)** brethren

(how many of you are not pastors raise your hands)

This is What you are to be doing Now

1) The Church is to Warn the Unruly vv. 14a

* Unruly GRK

A military term for a soldier who could not stay in step; to be selfishly careless or reckless about life, lazy and to be selfishly uncooperative

They are to be warned because they cause divisions among the people

Numbers 16

Now Korah took men; and they rose up before Moses with some of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty leaders of the congregation, representatives of the congregation, men of renown. They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, "You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?" So when Moses heard it, he (beat up on Korahs face) fell on his face;

They are to be warned

2) The Church is to Comfort the fainting vv. 14b

THEY ARE THOSE LACKING IN BOLDNESS AND CONFIDENCE

Fainthearted or feebleminded means "LITTLE-SOULED" those who do not have much of a stomach for battles of the Spirit

Easily Frightened - Often fearful or much afraid

These are the ones who say - "I don't think it can be done" or "What if the planes crashes on our way to Russia" (quickly move to first class - those guys never survive a crash) - WHAT IF !!!

They Quit before they Ever Get Started

What are you/we to do with them...

* Comfort GRK 3560 noutheteo (noo-thet-eh'-o)
to put in their mind through the ear, to gently encourage
them with firmness

(the opposite of yelling instructions - like the little boy at Balboa this week at the
ferry crossing who did not want to go across...)

Sailing with Jesus, Boats Leave Daily

Matthew 8:25

Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We
are perishing!" But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of
little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there
was a great calm.

We Need to Comfort the Fainthearted

3) The Church is to Uphold the Weak vv. 14c

The Spiritual Weak (the Don Knotts of the Faith)

literal translation is
- "Hold tight to the weak,
Not letting them fall into sin"

The Weak of Faith (Little Faith - NOTICE WHAT GRACE IS HERE)

Romans 14:1-3

Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful
things. :2 For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak
eats only vegetables. :3 Let not him who eats despise him who does not
eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has
received him

The Weak in Faith are Those who are Prone to Gravitate toward Rules and Regulations and legalism.

They're Often Fearful of the Liberty that there is in Christ to live Life
(Paul's life was a great example of Christian liberty)

4) The Church is to be Patient with All vv. 14d

How should we Handle the weak,
the unruly, the fainthearted?

- With Patience!!!

* Patient GRK 3114 makrothumeo (mak-roth-oo-meh'-o)
to be long-spirited at putting up with difficulty. To be
forbearing or to suffer patiently while endure

This is the Patience of God in Us

Jack How are You today?
“Great - I’m suffering patiently while enduring”

Galatians 6:2

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

The church is to be ministering among itself by guarding what God has given

If, in your church, you're blessed;

#1 by the people you fellowship with - Then protect them

#2 by the leadership that has been appointed - Then pray for them

#3 by the vision and direction the church is moving - Then be committed to it

#4 by the teaching of the Word - Then make Application of it Mom & Dad,

The children ought to be doing minor chores and tasks around the house to #1 teach them responsibility

#2 It's great preparation for future things. #3 it's good exercise for them and #4 it frees up mom & dad

When the Church Began to Grow in Acts
THE APOSTLES WERE PRESSURED TO DO OTHER TASKS
that were not their primary calling of being at the Word & Prayer

Turn to Acts 6:1-7

Turn to Romans 12:1-8

What an Anchor for every church to be tied to, What an Anchor for every believer to be tied to...

1 Thessalonians 5:15

See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, **but always pursue what is good** both for yourselves and for all.

When we are wronged, Evil is our Natural reaction

Matthew 5:39

"But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

Romans 12:19

Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. :20
Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."
21 **Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.** (Evil hates that you know) every time good is done in the presence's of evil, evil has to sit down

" but always pursue what is good "

The passion that Paul feels here, I have felt and do feel, as you see someone's walk of faith - you want that walk to continue and never fall!

"A Parent will shield his child from fear and danger and pain"

As a Family Member what are your chores around the house?
(What's your calling in the church)

As a Family member, are you being loved, encouraged and supported?

As a Family member, what would your brothers and sisters have to say about you and your Family life?

Do you love your Family?

Are You in the Family or are you a runaway?

You need Him and His Family