

It's a bad day in ministry when...

- The church wants to send you on a missions trip to Antarctica
- You preach the same sermon two weeks in a row, and no one notices
- You get assigned to nursery duty – during the morning service

It's a bad day in ministry when...

- A youth group from Haiti contacts you about renovating *your* building
- The church votes to move your day off to Sunday

*Paul's Letter to the
Church at Thessalonica*



I Thessalonians

W

N

E





Walking in Holiness Together

1 Thess. 5:12-15

1 Thess. 5:12-15

1. Mindset Toward Leaders
2. Ministry To Members

Reminder:

The elders did not write 1 Thessalonians



1. Mindset Toward Leaders

- We request of you, brethren
 - Not a command, charge, rule, etc. but a *friend-to-friend* appeal
 - See 4:1; compare with 5:14
 - Three parts to his request:



1. Mindset Toward Leaders

A. Appreciate them

- *Know them* – recognize their true value
 - a) Labor among you (see 1:3; 2:9; 3:5)
 - *Toil to weariness*
 - Produced by love (1:3) – *willing the good of the one loved*



1. Mindset Toward Leaders

A. Appreciate them

- *Know them* – recognize their true value
 - b) Have charge over you
 - *Placed before you; presiding over you*
 - 1 Tim. 3:4, 5, 12; 5:17
 - In the Lord – by His appointment, with His authority (cf. Eph. 4:11)



1. Mindset Toward Leaders

A. Appreciate them

- *Know them* – recognize their true value
 - c) Give you instruction (see 5:14)
 - *To put in mind – to remind, to warn, to rebuke, to chastise*
- An appeal to the conscience and will



1. Mindset Toward Leaders

B. Esteem them

- To value and respect
- *exceedingly overflowing all bounds* (see 3:10)
- In love – *lovingly, with good will*
- For their work – not their personality or your personal preferences



1. Mindset Toward Leaders

C. Live in Peace

- *Continue to be at peace among yourselves* (i.e. - don't let it stop)
- To both leaders and members
 - Mutual love promotes peace



1. Mindset Toward Leaders

- Similar to husbands & wives
 - Written to the church as a whole
 - Not to be demanded by the leaders
 - 1 Pet. 5:1-5



2. Ministry To Members

- We urge you, brethren
 - Exhort, compel, comfort, encourage
 - See 2:3, 11; 3:2, 7; 4:1, 10, 18; 5:11, 14
 - Five *present tense imperatives*
 - “Do this [continually]!”



2. Ministry To Members

A. Admonish the unruly

- *To put in mind*: remind, warn, rebuke
- *Out of line; disorderly* -> idle, loafers
 - Rebuke them till they shape up (see 2 Thess. 3:6-15)
 - This is the loving thing to do (cf. 4:9-12)



2. Ministry To Members

B. Encourage the fainthearted

- *To comfort or console* (see 3:11)
- *Small-souled*: discouraged, despairing
 - Due to affliction? (cf. 3:2-4)
 - Due to anxiety? (cf. 4:13-5:10)
- Comfort them till they spring back



2. Ministry To Members

C. Help the weak

- *Support; stand opposite so as to sustain*
- Spiritually or morally weak in the faith
 - Due to immaturity? (cf. Romans 14)
 - Indecision? Lack of self-control? Etc.?
- Hold them till they stand up



2. Ministry To Members

D. Be patient with everyone

- *Longsuffering; long-tempered*
- No anger or retaliation when faced with irritation or provocation
 - Characteristic of God – Matt. 18:26, 29
 - Characteristic of true love – 1 Cor. 13:4



2. Ministry To Members

E. See that... (be watchful!)

1. No one repays evil for evil

- “Treat others the same way you want them to treat you.” (Luke 6:31)
- Love does not retaliate with evil but with love (Matt. 5:38-48)



2. Ministry To Members

E. See that... (be watchful!)

2. Always pursue what is good

- Pursue: requires effort (cf. 1 Tim. 6:1)
- Acts that are kind, beneficial, helpful
- Even in the face of affliction (1 Pet. 3:9)



So What?

- All of this can be summed up:
 - *Love* (see 1 Cor. 13:4-7)
 - Does this describe me?

