

A community held together by grace

11/23/25- Pastor Zach

1 Thess. 5:1-18,

Connect: What has been the most helpful in this series on communication? How do you handle stress and challenging situations- do you become critical and cynical -Are you aware of your attitude?

Engage: Reread 1 Thess 5:1-18 What stands out to you in this passage?

Zach had several key points

#1. We are a community held together by the awe of God.

- a. Not by our own efforts strengths ideas – Where have you have tried to be thankful in your own strength? How long has it lasted?
- b. Grace is the soil and thanksgiving is the fruit. What do you think that looks like in a Christian's life?
- c. We have an awe problem.
Negativity, bias, cynicism, numbing, entitlement, conspiracies, Which one these words do you struggle with the most.
- d. "Complaint is the universal lang of sinners in broken world. Paul Tripp How have you seen this in yourself and in the church?
- e. Grumbling is not just a personality trait it is a sin? What do you think of that statement

#2. Thanksgiving is not denial – it is defiance

- a. What does this look like?
- b. Vs. 8 anger, cynicism, is not going to protect you. You must put on faith, love, hope.
- c. Who has God placed near you that needs some encouragement today?
- d. What encouragement have you received that you have never passed on?

#3 People who have patiently carried by God, become patient people who carry others

- a. Where do you need to remember grace that you received or wish you received?
- b. Where have you seen point 3 lived out?

There are 3 movements

- a. Rejoice always
- b. Pray without ceasing
- c. Give thanks in all circumstances.

Which one of these is the hardest for you and what do you think God wants you to do with that?

Apply: What is the invitation for you this week? Who can you encourage? Who can you thank? Who do you need to stop rehearsing bitterness toward? Who do you need to forgive?

