

A Jesus Exalting Partnership

5:12-28

vs. 12, Brothers and sisters give recognition to those who labor among you and lead (care for) you in the Lord and admonish (instruct) you.

Labor -> Hard work, diligence, endurance and reliability

vs. 13, regard them very highly in love

Leaders are to be the model.

What does it look like to walking in the ways of Jesus?

They are role models in the midst who set the example of kingdom living.

1:3 We recall, in the presence of our God and Father, your work produced by faith, your labor motivated by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

2:9 For you remember our labor and hardship, brothers and sisters. Working night and day so that we would not burden any of you, we preached God's gospel to you.

3:5 For this reason, when I could no longer stand it, I also sent him to find out about your faith, fearing that the tempter had tempted you and that our labor might be for nothing.

Themes for the Thessalonians:

- Endurance
- Faithfulness (loyalty)
- Staying on course
- Ongoing commitment to holiness
- Obedience to the will of God

As leaders of Second Mile it is our commitment to faithfully serve.

When a community is stressed and under pressure it will often become self-focused in order to endure (self-preservation).

It is in these moments where division, disruption, and just plain annoyance can begin to germinate and rapidly spread.

Question: Are you noticing a bit of this? What would Second Mile's annual check-up reveal? Are you the part of the body that is hurt, tired, or just troublesome?

Paul knows this and so he gives the instruction...

Be at peace among yourselves.

Be a brother or sister who regards others more highly than yourself.

Seek the good of others and don't be self-focused.

Be a person who cultivates patience in their everyday routines (5:15).

vs. 14, We exhort (urge) you.

- Warn - those who are idol (rebellious, trouble makers - those who complain, gossip, stir up problems rather than peace in the community.
- Comfort - the discouraged
- Help - the weak
- Be patient - with everyone

Show your church family and the world around you the sharp contrast between how a Jesus follower interacts and engages.

vs. 25-26, Three requests

1. Pray for us (Paul and his co-workers).
2. Greet all the brothers and sisters with a holy kiss. Tangibly demonstrate the bond that is shared between the family of God.

1 Peter 5:14 Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

Sharing the bond of love with one another (fellowship and friendship)

3. Read this letter to all the brothers and sisters. Each one is responsible for the health of the church. All of us are to be engaged in unity, holiness, peace, and maturity.

vs. 28, Jesus is pouring out his favor and goodness onto the church.

Remember! Don't forget! Rely on one another!

(Last Week)

Take Away: **(Questions)**

- Know the enemy.
- Start, continue, and trust your training (Cultivate).
- Cooperate with your brothers and sisters.
- Be of one mind with those who care for you (leaders).
- Live your life in service to King Jesus.
- Live in a state of readiness.

Wholeness and Holiness