



### QUESTION 1

Verse 14 says to, “warn those who are lazy.” What do you think (based on the context) Paul means by that? What implications does that have for us today? How hard would it be to confront someone with that kind of language?

### QUESTION 2

What is a short phrase that would encapsulate the type of character and actions that would help to represent your family? What phrases would you like your friends, family, or neighbors to say about you?

### QUESTION 3

Chapter 5 v19 says not to stifle the Holy Spirit - what do you think that means? What does that look like practically in our daily lives? What does the opposite of stifling the Holy Spirit look like?

### QUESTION 4

Verse 23 talks again about that idea of being holy - only this time as a process we undergo. What does that process look like / what should it look like? Are there ways to see it actually taking place?

### CONTEXT

Moving on from the theme of loyalty within the community (vv. 12–13), Paul exhorts the believers concerning how they are to respond to various persons within the congregation: *And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.* This pastoral responsibility is not placed solely in the hands of the leadership but delegated to all the members of the church. Although the leaders played an important role within the congregation (v. 12), the task of maintaining the well-being of the Christian community did not fall to them exclusively. The members of the church shared a mutual responsibility to help one another for their building up in the faith (cf. 5:11; Eph. 4:16).

### WORD STUDY

Verse 14 - ‘lazy’ is *ataktos* in the Greek. It can be defined as: **1** disorderly, out of ranks (often so of soldiers). **2** irregular, inordinate, immoderate pleasures. **3** deviating from the prescribed order or rule. *Additional Information:* Used in Greek society of those who did not show up for work.

### Prayer Requests

---