

“Our Together Testimony”

2 Thessalonians 3:6-18

Your testimony in the timeline is part of *our* testimony in the timeline. We are in this together as a body. We are connected and affected by the actions and choices of one another.

1 Corinthians 12:25–27²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Here are the choices we can make individually to help the body corporately:

1. WE SPEND TIME WITH POSITIVE PEOPLE (2 THESSALONIANS 3:6,14)

A. It's dangerous to spend too much time with toxic people.

- i. *1 Corinthians 5:6⁶ Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?*
- ii. *Hebrews 12:15¹⁵ Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.*
- iii. *1 Corinthians 15:33³³ Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.”*
- iv. *Proverbs 13:20²⁰ He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed.*
- v. “A mirror reflects a man's face, but what he is really like is shown by the kind of friends he chooses.” - Colin Powell

B. The specific type of people spoken of here are:

- i. **Disorderly** [idle, lazy, irresponsible] (vs.6,7)
- ii. **Selfish** (vs.8)
- iii. **Busybodies** (vs.11) “A busybody is a person who meddles in the affairs of others. Sometimes this meddling is under the guise of “helping,” but usually the “help” is unwelcome and uninvited. Busybodies are often people who are dissatisfied with the level of drama in their own lives and gain satisfaction by becoming involved in the problems of other people. Gossip is usually a staple of every busybody, but it is usually camouflaged as a “prayer request” or given under the pretence of asking for advice.” - <https://www.gotquestions.org/busybody-Bible.html>

- iv. *1 Timothy 5:13¹³ And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not.*

C. The solution is to remove yourself from these people.

- i. *Romans 16:17¹⁷ Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.*
- ii. *Proverbs 20:19¹⁹ A gossip goes around telling secrets, so don't hang around with chatters.*

2. WE SEE THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING GOOD EXAMPLES (2 THESSALONIANS 3:7-9)

A. Our lives must be lived with authenticity and honesty

- i. *1 Peter 2:12¹² having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.*
- ii. "A good example is far better than a good precept." - Dwight L. Moody

3. WE WORK HARD TO HELP OTHERS (2 THESSALONIANS 3:8,10)

A. It's Godly to work hard and earn money, to provide for yourself and those in need.

B. Don't be lazy, and make sure you are generous.

- i. *1 Timothy 6:17-18¹⁷ Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others.*
- ii. "God gives the birds their food, but He doesn't throw it into their nests."
- iii. "Some people would do anything to be able to do nothing." - Frank Tyger
- iv. "Earn all you can, give all you can, save all you can" — John Wesley

4. WE STAY STRONG DURING HARD TIMES (2 THESSALONIANS 3:13)

- i. *1 Corinthians 15:58⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*
- ii. *Galatians 6:9⁹ And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.*

5. WE KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A BROTHER AND AN ENEMY (2 THESSALONIANS 3:14-15)

A. Be very careful how you treat sinners, especially sinning Christians

- i. *John 8:7*⁷ So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, “He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.”
- ii. *Galatians 6:1–2*¹ Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. ² Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

6. WE TRUST IN THE LORD TO ENABLE US TO LIVE OUT OUR TESTIMONY
(2 THESSALONIANS 3:16-18)

A. Peace, grace just like at the beginning