

Reflecting on 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12

December 13, 2020

Introduction: In this text, Paul corrects a problem that occurs within the church of Thessalonica: Some believers are choosing to be idle and likely freeloading on the generosity of church. Paul offers the solution of grace-filled living to correct this behavior. From this week's text, we find three principles for living in a grace-filled community:

1. Your sin can quickly infect another believer. (v. 6)
2. Your example can inspire others to follow Christ.
(vv. 7-10)
3. You may need correction to continue following Christ.
(vv. 11-12)

The Big Idea we identify is that *God calls Christians to live graciously in Christian community and to use their influence in the lives of others to bring about Christlikeness.*

Up for Discussion:

1. Of the three principles from our study, which one sticks out to you as most important? Why?

2. Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6 and Galatians 6:1. In the first text, Paul tells the church to stay away from a person who is erring in their faith. In the second, Paul tells people in the church to go rescue that person. How can we reconcile these two instructions? Describe an appropriate situation where each applies.

3. In 2 Thessalonians 3: 6, Paul is deeply concerned that erring believers are a bad influence on the church. Why are sinful choices so contagious within the body of Christ?

4. In verses 7-10, Paul rehearses his example while he was in Thessalonica. He calls on the church to remember and follow his pattern of life. What role does our example play in the discipleship (Christian growth) of other believers?

