

# Turning the World Upside Down: Gospel Community

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 // Pastor Rob // 8.30.20

This is the last message in our series through 1 Thessalonians. Paul ends with some basic instructions on how to live life in Christian community and in the world. His words are **grounding** for us this week as we've faced another painful moment as a nation in our journey towards racial justice and healing. We add to that the continuing struggles of COVID, political tensions, and hurricane Laura, and all this can leave us feeling disoriented and uncertain of how to respond or help. Paul's words are grounding for us because they give us simple steps of obedience that we can all start with as we seek to follow Jesus in our difficult days.

## Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

Here's a basic outline of this passage. Paul gives 5 main instructions.

How to relate to leaders (12-13)

How to care for potentially difficult people in the church (14)

How to treat others who have wronged you (15)

How to live the Christian life (16-18)

How to work with the Spirit in the church (19-22)

Closing Prayer and Instructions (23-28)

## Discussion questions:

Why do you think Paul calls leaders and those they lead to be at peace amongst themselves? (12-13)

Verse 14 mentions three different potentially difficult people to care or respond to. Which one is most difficult for you to have patience with? Why?

Verse 15 calls us to seek to do good to one another within the church and everyone else instead of acting on revenge. Discuss this command. Is this a strong part of your understanding of living the Christian life? Also see, Romans 12: 17, 19-21; 1 Pet 3:9; Matthew 5:38-42, 43-48.

Discuss verses 16-18. Which one of these is most lacking in your life? How would doing these 3 things change your life?

Why is Paul's prayer so encouraging to us? (23-24)