



## 1ST THESSALONIANS 5 PART 2

*12 And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, 13 and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.*

*1 Th 5:12–13.*

The last half of chapter 5 contains a series of exhortations to the believer. While written to the church in Thessalonica, these exhortations apply to every believer's life. Paul calls us to live a life of righteousness while eagerly awaiting the ultimate and final salvation. This entails showing proper reverence for the leaders within the church. Not that they are any 'holier' than anyone else in the brotherhood of believers, but that they have a unique calling and position of leadership. As such we pray for our leaders and assist them in their work.

Among the exhortations, believers are to discipline (in love) those who are idle or busybodies, offer support to the easily disheartened and encourage those with weaker faith. We are also taught to be patient with everyone, not seek revenge against those who wrong us, and continue doing good to all while rejoicing. Additionally, we should persist in prayer and gratitude in all circumstances.

Furthermore, Paul advises believers not to ignore or diminish the guidance of the Spirit or to look down on good doctrine. Rather than disregarding messages from those claiming to be prophets, they should assess and evaluate these messages. This process of discernment enables believers to accept what is consistent with the Word of God and to refuse anything that is not. Ultimately, Christians are encouraged to separate from every type of evil.

***Read 1st Thessalonians 5:11-28. What does it mean to be an example to the world?***

### Discussion Questions

1. We dove deep into the term 'brethren', as a calling to function as a family, but not the way the world looks at families. It's a higher calling to something greater and divine! How does your family and local body of believers set the example of the Gospel?
2. What does it mean to 'keep the peace' among the brethren?
3. How do you show love to those that do wrong to you? How does that enrich your testimony?
4. Paul encourages believers to pray without ceasing. What does it mean to 'keep the phone line open' in your life? How do we make constant prayer and thanksgiving a normal practice in our lives?
5. We are told to abstain from every evil practice. What are some evils that are common practice in our workplaces and environments? In what ways do we tend to make compromises for these in our lives? How do we reject even the appearance of evil in our lives?