

LESSON EIGHT: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:12-28

OASIS Bible Study - November 3-4, 2026

REFLECT: When you think of a healthy church, what comes to mind? What would you expect to see in the way people in the church treat one another?

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THE QUESTION PAUL ADDRESSES IN CHAPTER 5:

What are the essentials for a _____ church _____?

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

12 Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance. 13 Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work. And live peacefully with each other.

14 Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are lazy. Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care of those who are weak. Be patient with everyone.

15 See that no one pays back evil for evil, but always try to do good to each other and to all people.

16 Always be joyful. 17 Never stop praying. 18 Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

19 Do not stifle the Holy Spirit. 20 Do not scoff at prophecies, 21 but test everything that is said. Hold on to what is good. 22 Stay away from every kind of evil.

23 Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. 24 God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful.

25 Dear brothers and sisters, pray for us.

26 Greet all the brothers and sisters with a sacred kiss.

27 I command you in the name of the Lord to read this letter to all the brothers and sisters.

28 May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

What responsibilities do Christ-followers have toward their spiritual leaders? (Vs. 12-13)

1. **_____ them (vs. 12).**
   Honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work.

2. **_____ them (vs. 13).**
   Show them great respect.

   2 Corinthians 11:28
   Then, besides all this, I have the daily burden of my concern for all the churches.

3. **_____ them (vs. 13).**
   Show them wholehearted love

4. **_____ them (Hebrews 13:17).**

   Hebrews 13:17
   Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.

1 Corinthians 10:33 and 11:1
I don't just do what is best for me; I do what is best for others so that many may be saved. And you should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.

5. **Live in _____ with each other (vs. 13).**

REFLECT: Based on verses 12 and 13, what are some practical things we can do to honor and appreciate our spiritual leaders?

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How are we to treat one another in the church? (Vs. 14)

1 Thessalonians 5:14
14 *Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are lazy. Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care of those who are weak. Be patient with everyone.*

1. **_____ those who are lazy and disruptive.**

2. **_____ those who are timid.**
   The Greek word literally means "fainthearted." Refers to people who are scared, hopeless, ready to give up.

   "Encourage" is a compound Greek word that means "near speech." *(paramuthos)*

3. **_____ for the weak.**
   See 1 John 3:18-19.

4. **Be _____ with everyone.**

Love does not give everyone the same response; it gives each person the care they _____.

The next essential for a healthy church: (Vs. 15)

1 Thessalonians 5:15
15 *See that no one pays back evil for evil, but always try to do good to each other and to all people.*

Refuse _____.

Matthew 7:12
"Do to others whatever <u>you would like them</u> to do to you. This is the essence of all that is taught in the law and the prophets."

Stay connected to God (vs. 16-18)

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
16 *Always be joyful.* ***17*** *Never stop praying.* ***18*** *Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.*

1. **First command: Rejoice _____!**

   JOY - the settled assurance that God is in _____, the quiet confidence in His loving _____, and the determined choice to _____ Him in every situation.

2. **Second command – _____ continually!**

3. **Third command – Be thankful in all _____!**

How can we be thankful in all circumstances?
See Romans 8:28-29, James 1:2-4, Hebrews 13:5

Be discerning (vs. 19-22).

1 Thessalonians 5:19-22
19 Do not stifle the Holy Spirit. 20 Do not scoff at prophecies, 21 but test everything that is said. Hold on to what is good. 22 Stay away from every kind of evil.

We quench the Spirit when we _____ do something the Spirit is _____ us to do.

Ephesians 4:30
And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live.

We grieve the Spirit when we _____ something the Spirit is telling us _____ to do.

PROPHECY (Vs. 20)

1. Fore-telling – predicting the future _____ of God
   What is going to happen?

2. Forth-telling – _____ the Word of God (speaking forth God's message)

INSTEAD OF SCOFFING…what does Paul say in verse 21?
21 but test everything that is said.

See Acts 17:11.

Final instructions (vs. 23-24):

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24
23 Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. 24 God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful.

Transformation is _____ job, but it requires my _____.

Putting it all together:

- *Honor those who lead you.*
- *Give people the care they need. Some need correction, some need encouragement, and some need practical help. Everyone needs patience.*
- *Choose goodness over getting even. Don't retaliate, but look for ways to do good.*
- *Stay connected to God. Keep rejoicing, keep praying, and keep giving thanks.*
- *Be open to the Spirit and test everything.*
- *Let the promise of Jesus' return shape the way you live today.*
- *Rest in God's faithfulness.*