



Go for God!

“LET’S BE A FELLOWSHIP OF WINNERS!”

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

~ A WINNING TEAM MUST HAVE:

#1 – TEAMWORK (v12-13)

#2 – DISCIPLINE (v14-15)

#3 – ATTITUDE (v16-22)

#4 – COMMITMENT (v23-28)

> #1 – LET’S WIN WITH TEAMWORK! (v12-13)

- Listen to the words of great motivator and theologian (jus’ kidding) Vince Lombardi who said, “Individual commitment to a group effort – that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work.”

- In this passage we are told to “*Recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord*” – As a church body we must realize and recognize those that God has raised up in servant leadership (i.e. – Pastors, Staff, and Lay-leaders). How do we recognize a leader?

- Jesus said in Matthew 23:11-12 - *But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.*

- Peter describes a good shepherd of the flock in 1 Peter 5:1-4 - *The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.*

- What is the Pastor’s purpose and job description? Turn to Ephesians 4:11-16.

(Also 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus) Paul encourages LOVE and PEACE in the body of Christ amongst the leaders and the church; remember our Lord told us “*house divided will not stand.*” (Mark 3:25)

> #2 – LET’S WIN WITH DISCIPLINE! (v14-15)

- **Let’s observe six exhortations:**

1 – **Warn the unruly** - This has military tone speaking of those who engage in “disorderly conduct,” we are to confront the unruly and deal with their sin in love.

2 – **Comfort the fainthearted** - We are to always encourage the discouraged in the body of Christ, to bring them comfort.

3 – **Uphold the weak** - Not everyone is strong, we must help the wounded warrior or battered sheep, we must heal and help our hurting brother or sister in Christ.

4 – **Be patient with all** - Be patient with patience, pray for patience and God will patiently teach you.

5 – **See that no one renders evil for evil** - Jesus said, “*You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ “But I say to you love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven;”* (Mt. 5:43-45).

6 – **Pursue what is good** - How about the Luke 10:25-37 (the “good Samaritan”)

> **#3 – LET’S WIN WITH ATTITUDE! (v16-22)**

- **Let us practice SIX ATTITUDE changers:**

1 – **REJOICE ALWAYS!** – The word “REJOICE” is found 133 times in the Bible (Luke 6:23; 10:20; 15:1-32)

2 – **PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!** – One commentator writes, “Prayer is much more than addressing God; it is also listening to God, communing with God, consciously depending on God. It is the habit of lifting one’s heart to God. The concept here involves a deliberately chosen pattern and habit of life.

3 – **GIVE THANKS!** – Is an aspect of the “will of God” for every believer. Barclay writes that there are three marks of a genuine church:

(1) **A happy church** (v16);

(2) **A praying church** (v17);

(3) **A thankful church** (v18).

4 – **QUENCH NOT THE SPIRIT!** – What quenches the Spirit? Sin quenches the Spirit; our lack of devotion to God quenches the Spirit. Let’s get on fire for God, let’s be filled with the Spirit:

- In Ephesians 4:30-32 we are told that we can grieve the Holy Spirit - *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put*

away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

- Ephesians 5:18-21 - *And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.*

5 – **DO NOT DESPISE PROPHECIES!** – Paul defines prophesying in the church in 1 Corinthians 14:1-5 - *Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.*

6 – **TEST ALL THINGS; HOLD FAST TO WHAT IS GOOD!** – Test! If it looks bad, smells bad, tastes bad, then it is bad – don't eat it!

In 1 John 4:1-3 we read, *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.*

> **#4 – LET'S WIN WITH COMMITMENT! (v23-28)**

- In verse 23 God is committed to you, to **SANCTIFY YOU COMPLETELY**, that is to make you into His image, to separate you from sin, to fill you with His Son, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

- Jesus said in John 17:15-19 - *I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.*

God's sanctifying work in us by the Holy Spirit continues until the "coming of our Lord Jesus Christ," that is the rapture of the church. God is faithful, He will do it!

- (v25-28) **FINAL WORDS – PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER!** "*Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss!*"

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER!
READERS ARE LEADERS!
WE ARE SAVED BY GOD'S AMAZING GRACE
THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!
AMEN!**