

CALLED TO RESPECT

1 Thes 5:12-13 We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³ and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.

Intro: Paul has been teaching the Thessalonians how to be the church in a world hostile to the church. How to have peace and stability in the church by having a good work ethic, everyone earning their own living, and minding their own business, ministering to each other, admonishing the idle, encouraging the fainthearted, holding to the weak, never returning evil for evil and trying to do what is in the best for the common interest, putting others ahead of yourself.

(last week) Did you notice how the those who were faint hearted and those weak (struggling with sexual immorality) were given encouragement and direct intervention to help them, but those who were not working were admonished and if they did not correct their behavior they were not to have a place at the table so that their own hunger would drive them back to an honest day's work.

Those who destabilize the life of the church are really the more severe issue.

We point our fingers at people with certain problems but let those who gossip or don't work in the church go unchecked.

Before you point your finger at someone who is addicted to something why not considering how to get the beam out of your own eye before removing the speck from someone else's.

Jesus often asked questions and let the people provide the answer that was obvious even though they were unwilling to apply the logic to themselves.

So, let us ask the question. Who hurts the church more, the person addicted to drugs or the person in church every Sunday that is known and respected but talks about the wrong things with the wrong people behind closed doors? The person that smiles with their mouth but harbors a bad attitude in their heart.

We must guard the unity of the church with all seriousness.

To do that Paul was teaching the Thessalonians about how to conduct their daily lives and how to minister to each other.

He also teaches that a big part of maintaining a stable church has to do with how the church treats and responds to the leader that God has placed over them.

First, we are always talking about servant leaders.

Second this is addressed several times in the New Testament addresses this in Heb. 13:17, 1 Pet 5:1-5, Eph 4:7-16,

Hebrews 13:17 ¹⁷ Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

respect those who labor among you- Know KJV

They must know his person, hear his voice, acknowledge him for their pastor, and pay due regard to his teaching, ruling, and admonitions. ¹

word for toil even if weary²

¹ Henry, M. (1994). [*Matthew Henry's commentary on the whole Bible: complete and unabridged in one volume*](#) (p. 2344). Peabody: Hendrickson.

² Robertson, A. T. (1933). [*Word Pictures in the New Testament*](#) (1 Th 5:12). Nashville, TN: Broadman Press.

1 Timothy 5:17 Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

over you in the Lord-

Literally, those who stand in front of you, your leaders in the Lord, pastors, deacons, teachers, ministry leaders.

SS deacon pastor, it is not the title it is the work they do for your benefit. They stand is a place of servant authority to minister for your good.

The SS teacher literally stands at the front of the class to labor in the teaching of the word for your good, respect him, that means be in class and obey the word of God that is being taught to you.

Used of superintendents of households, 1 Tim. 3:4, 5, 12³

The one responsible for how something runs, a stewardship.

and admonish you-

Like last week the idea of getting things back in order, used in the military to of correcting out of line soldiers.

A primary part of a leader's job is to correct people that are out of line, when someone does this today that are called out for not being encouraging.

This is one of the main reason leadership is so much labor.

You are called to be a daddy not a friend.

Respect those who are in this position and admonish you.

³ Vincent, M. R. (1887). [*Word studies in the New Testament*](#) (Vol. 4, p. 47). New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

esteem them very highly in love-

the church should greatly value the office of the ministry, honor and love their ministers, and show their esteem and affection in all proper ways, and this for their work's sake. ⁴

Those who minister to you should be esteemed in love because what they are doing is for your ultimate good.

Let your concern for your minister be genuine, from the heart.

because of their work-

Biblically a minister is not just anybody,

The first priority for every church was to establish elders.

They are people who are called by God, who labor and work among the church to teach the word, shepherd the sheep and to guide the church as a father guides a household. They are to make sure all things are in order.

Preaching is very important but pastoral ministry is all encompassing.

Some people can preach but pastoring is a set of many God given skills.

Usually no one leader has all these and it takes a group of godly men to see to all the needs of a church.

⁴ Henry, M. (1994). [*Matthew Henry's commentary on the whole Bible: complete and unabridged in one volume*](#) (p. 2344). Peabody: Hendrickson.

Be at peace among yourselves-

It is reasonably simple logic when there are those in a community that are not willing to receive instruction and correction from the designated supervisor the only thing that can result is conflict. This will happen in a home, classroom, job, town, or church.

Everything you do to help your pastor is a benefit to the overall health of the body.

Encouragement, prayer, respect, and love, for those who minister to you all go a long way to your own growth and wellbeing.

Two Questions

1. Why did the Lord tell the Israelites to destroy everybody in certain people groups? How can you reconcile this with the NT?

Deuteronomy 20:16–18 (ESV) ¹⁶ But in the cities of these peoples that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance, you shall save alive nothing that breathes, ¹⁷ but you shall devote them to complete destruction, the Hittites and the Amorites, the Canaanites and the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites, as the LORD your God has commanded, ¹⁸ that they may not teach you to do according to all their abominable practices that they have done for their gods, and so you sin against the LORD your God.

2. Why could David not build the temple, a specific example?

1 Samuel 27:7–12 ⁷ And the number of the days that David lived in the country of the Philistines was a year and four months.

⁸ Now David and his men went up and made raids against the Geshurites, the Girzites, and the Amalekites, for these were the inhabitants of the land from of old, as far as Shur, to the land of Egypt. ⁹ And David would strike the land and would leave neither man nor woman alive, but would take away the sheep, the oxen, the donkeys, the camels, and the garments, and come back to Achish. ¹⁰ When Achish asked, “Where have you made a raid today?” David would say, “Against the Negeb of Judah,” or, “Against the Negeb of the Jerahmeelites,” or, “Against the Negeb of the Kenites.” ¹¹ And David would leave neither man nor woman alive to bring news to Gath, thinking, “lest they should tell about us and say, ‘So David has done.’ ” Such was his custom all the while he lived in the country of the Philistines. ¹² And Achish trusted David,

thinking, “He has made himself an utter stench to his people Israel; therefore he shall always be my servant.”

1 Chronicles 28:3³ But God said to me, ‘You may not build a house for my name, for you are a man of war and have shed blood.’

1 Kings 5:3³ “You know that David my father could not build a house for the name of the LORD his God because of the warfare with which his enemies surrounded him, until the LORD put them under the soles of his feet.

1 Chronicles 17:4 “Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: It is not you who will build me a house to dwell in.

1 Chronicles 22:8 But the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘You have shed much blood and have waged great wars. You shall not build a house to my name, because you have shed so much blood before me on the earth.