

CALLED TO MINISTER

1 Thes 5:14-15 And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

¹⁵ See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.

Intro: What do we do in hard times. When our faith comes under attack from the world, we live in.

The Lord did not call us to run the universe, or the nation.

If you feel overwhelmed maybe you should focus on what you can handle.

If you think this is ridiculous remember this is how the first century Christians changed the world and how the 16th century Christians changed the world.

Last week we looked at four simple things we are to do.

Driven to Extremes:

Aspire to live quietly

Mind your own affairs

Work with your own hands

Be dependent on no one

And Paul said this is so that we will have a good reputation with those outside the church.

Now Paul gives us four things that will help us inside the church.

admonish the idle – *not working*

encourage the fainthearted – *discouraged bc of false teaching, also concern for family members who have passed.*

help the weak – *sexual immorality*

be patient with them all –

Each one of these corresponds to the issues he has addressed in the letter.

Not the pastor the church- we are all called to minister to each other.

There is a break down in the lives of believers where we are not honest with each other. We are not holding each other accountable. When we are not helping each other.

You may say how,

It depends on the issue at hand, admonish some, encourage some, and help others,

Picture, WE are all part of a family

Reality, WE are all in the same boat

admonish the idle –

This word means “careless, out of line.” It was applied to a soldier who would not keep rank but insisted on marching his own way¹

encourage the fainthearted -

The literal translation of the Greek word is “little-souled, fainthearted.” These are the quitters in the church family. They always look on the dark side of things and give up when the going is tough.²

Instead of scolding the fainthearted from a distance, we must get close to them and speak tenderly. We must teach the “little-souled” that the

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [The Bible exposition commentary](#) (Vol. 2, pp. 187–188). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

² Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [The Bible exposition commentary](#) (Vol. 2, p. 188). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

trials of life will help to enlarge them and make them stronger in the faith.³

help the weak – to cling to, to hold on to. The weak are those tempted to sin

When something has a hold on a person they need very intense personal help, even if they don't want it.

You are basically saving the person from themselves until they get strong enough to stand on their own.

This would go along with any kind of addiction, any kind of sexual sin,

be patient with them all –

We have the strong and the weak in our church families today, just as in our natural families we have children who mature faster than others. How should we handle them? *With patient, reassuring love*. It is unfair and unwise to compare one child with another, for each one matures in his own time and his own way.⁴

One might say that the idle, the anxious and the weak were the 'problem children' of the church family, plagued respectively with problems of understanding, faith and conduct. Every church has members of this kind. We have no excuse for becoming impatient with them on the ground that they are difficult,⁵

³ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [The Bible exposition commentary](#) (Vol. 2, p. 188). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

⁴ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [The Bible exposition commentary](#) (Vol. 2, p. 188). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

⁵ Stott, J. R. W. (1994). [The message of Thessalonians: the gospel & the end of time](#) (p. 122). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Christians are not perfect

Christians are not all mature and do not all mature the same

Christian like children are different and have hardwired personalities

These personalities do not change the truth but they are obstacles that need love and help from others.

see that no one repays anyone evil for evil-

Based on all that we are told to do and on what the OT teaches and Jesus clearly affirmed in His teaching we are never no never to repay evil for evil.

Let us be honest this is very hard. But there is not an excuse to do this.

This is the opposite of Christlikeness.

Governing Motive: always seek to do good to one another and to everyone

We should not be guilty of doing anything that does not seek the good of the other person.

The church would explode w internal growth if we took this seriously.

The church would be effective in our witness to outsiders if we practice this consistently.