

Esteeming Ministers and Members
Dr. Michael A. Cox
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Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15

1 Thessalonians: [Bibliography](#) or [Manuscripts and Greek Exegesis](#)

UBS 4th Edition Paragraph Topic: Final Exhortations and Greetings

Central Idea of Message: Christians are instructed to treat their ministers with the utmost respect and to admonish and encourage their fellow members.

Introduction: It seems that those in Thessalonica who were expecting the Lord's return immediately were not only idle busybodies living off of others, but they were also unruly and disrespectful toward their pastors. The Bible teaches Christians to esteem ministers and members of God's kingdom.

I. Instructions Concerning Ministers (vv. 12-13)

A. Appreciate those who labor diligently and have charge over you (v. 12)

1. Appreciate: acknowledge the true value of their work
2. Labor diligently
 - a) Work for the Lord in the world
 - b) Work for the Lord in the church
 - (1) **Leading a carnal [worldly], disrespectful church seldom proves to be an easy task**
 - (2) **There may not be much dirt under the minister's fingernails, but he has burdens on his shoulders night and day that few know about**
 - (3) Suffice it to say that he works hard!
3. Have charge over you
 - a) God has given assignments: charge
 - b) God calls and equips leaders
 - c) They stand before you
 - d) They are not to be dictators
 - e) Because that one has come into your sphere of influence, that one became accountable to God

for a certain degree of your spiritual instruction

B. Esteem Christian workers very highly in love (v. 13)

1. Respect them because of their kingdom work
 - a) As early as this was in Christian history, it is unlikely that there were seasoned veterans serving as pastors of these churches
 - b) Nevertheless, the congregation was urged to love and respect them, even if they were novices
 - c) **Wise leading and wise following are both necessary for a church to be highly functional**
 - d) As the shepherd is to know his sheep, so should the sheep know their shepherd
 - (1) His voice
 - (2) His teachings
 - (3) His admonitions
 - (4) His leadership
2. Live at peace with one another
 - a) Do not be warring against your leaders
 - (1) **The Bible here suggests a link between recognition of and respect for God-given leadership and living at peace**
 - (2) **Where there is no recognition of and respect for leadership, there will be wrangling, bitterness, and unrest**
 - b) Do not be quarreling with one another
 - c) **Churches not warring against their pastor or each other give at least one piece of evidence that they are healthy**
 - d) **Churches respecting and admiring their pastor are churches which others want to join**

II. Instructions Concerning Members (vv. 14-15)

A. Admonish, encourage, help, be patient (v. 14)

1. Admonish
 - a) Put sense into them
 - b) Point out faults or mistakes
2. Unruly
 - a) Lazy, idle, disorderly
 - b) In every society and every church there are those who are undisciplined
3. Encourage the fainthearted

- a) Those needing to be admonished were told what they ought to stop doing
- b) These were tempted to quit and needed to be told, "You can do it!"
- 4. Help the weak: those having trouble saying no to sin
- 5. Be patient with all men
 - a) The spiritually mature
 - b) The spiritually immature
 - c) **There is no Christian who does not need patience exercised toward him or her**
 - d) There is no Christian immune from exercising patience toward other Christians
- B. **Never repay evil for evil (v. 15)**
 - 1. **Christians must not send around what comes around**
 - a) Whether Christian or heathen
 - b) Regardless of the provocation
 - c) **All followers of Jesus Christ must guard against having a vindictive spirit**
 - 2. **Seek after what is good for one another and for all**

Conclusion: These are wise words concerning attitudes toward ministers and members. Are you a member of God's kingdom? Are you sure?