

God's Blueprint for Faith Baptist Church

Part 5 – Our Directions

1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;

13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake.

And be at peace among yourselves.

14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all *men*.

15 See that none render evil for evil unto any *man*; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all *men*.

16 Rejoice evermore.

17 Pray without ceasing.

18 In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

- It is not my desire to be repetitive
- It is not my desire to sound self-serving or be self-serving
 - This is not about me
- **It is my desire for you to know what the Bible says**
 - And to understand that this is God's directions to us, His Church

12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;

13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake.

And be at peace among yourselves.

- **Know The Workers**

- Know who is laboring for you
- Know who God has placed in your life to watch over you
- Know they do it out of love
- Know that anything that may seem confrontational if is in your best interest
- Know that the love you show them is God honoring
- Know that hearing and following their biblical directions WILL help you in your Direction
- Know that when you agree with one another to follow together, God is Honored

- Paul has given great praise and great prophecy to the Church at Thessalonica.
- Now in the last of this first epistle he instructs them on how to “do” church... I love this!

14 Now we exhort you, brethren, **warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.**

- **Warn them that are unruly.**

- These are those who just don't want to obey Christ in their lives but still want to be in the church
- To warn them is to admonish of the wrong while encouraging what is right
- Warning them is not our confronting them but God's
- We aren't trying to get them out of church, but into Christ!

- **Comfort the feeble minded**
 - Not everyone makes sense of the Word as well as some
 - Some need a continual reassurance or strengthening of their faith
 - We don't ridicule or make them to feel anything less than a child of God
 - We use God's Word and our Testimonies to help them walk with Christ
- **Support the weak**
 - If living for Jesus was easy, everyone would be doing it
 - If you're able to do it, help someone who is not as able
 - Give of yourself to help them walk in faith and obedience
 - This takes a relationship where they matter as much as we do
- **Be patient toward all men**
 - We don't pick and choose who to love in Christ
 - We don't get to discard anyone because we have had enough
 - We must endure their shortcomings from our perspective as Christ does ours
- **Paul's exhortation and instruction on how to be a New Testament Church Body continues...**

15 See that none render evil for evil unto any *man*; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all *men*.

- **Don't give evil because you receive evil**

- To ANY man - this means it is never right to retaliate in anger
- There is no “righteous retaliation”
- Righteous indignation should yield Christ’s grace and mercy as it has to us
 - God has every right to destroy each of us
 - Yet He grants mercy and grace to all mankind
 - His indignation won’t be known by man until their rejection is complete
- **Follow that which is good, ALWAYS!**
 - This is following Christ
 - To your church family
 - To not your church family
 - That means everyone, every time, all the time

16 Rejoice evermore.

17 Pray without ceasing.

18 In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

- **Church is not a mystery**
 - How we be the church is spelled out plainly in scripture.
 - So we continue in Paul’s address to the Church...
- **Rejoice Evermore**
 - Why do we struggle to rejoice?
 - Why do we think church is to be so solemn?
 - Why can’t we just rejoice in Who God is, What He has Done, and What He is Doing?
- **Pray without Ceasing**
 - This is about being in constant communication with our Heavenly Father

- This only happens when we choose to keep those lines of communication open
- **Give Thanks, in EVERYTHING...**
 - Why? God said so
 - Why? It is HIS WILL
 - Why? it just feels so good!