

Letter to the Thessalonians

CHRISTIAN HOPE

Living as a Family Member

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

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Intro: recapping... the relevance of Thessalonians.

The Place of the Passage: "A Parting Plea". Having discussed our hope in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11, Paul now gives a flurry of parting instructions—17 consecutive commands—before concluding the letter with final comments and a benediction. They are practical guidelines on how to live our faith, driven by past mercy and sustained by future hope, in three areas of life.

A capital word to begin: _____.

1. How to act toward _____.

But we beseech you, brethren, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 RSV)

Three things which church members must do with regard to their leaders:

1.1: _____.

1.2: _____.

1.3: _____.

WHY?

a) Leaders are _____.

b) Leaders _____ you.

c) Leaders _____ among you.

"There are all forms of anger, from long-standing resentment and unforgiveness, to rebellion, violence, child-beating, mutilating, wife torture, threats against life, murder for hire and Mafia-related revenge. There are the sexual offenses of rape, incest, sodomy, homosexuality, gang sex and swingers, bestiality, fornication, and the ever-present adultery. There are marital problems of every kind, attempted or contemplated suicide (and an occasional successful suicide), abortions and adoptions. I see many family problems between parents, or single parents, and children. There are also the addicts of every sort -- alcoholics, drugaholics, foodaholics, workaholics, sexaholics, spendaholics, etc. There are the institutionalized, either coming from or going to a prison, hospital, detox unit, mental facility. There is the psychotic to deal with or the quieter problems of legal,

finances, career questions about a specific passage of Scripture or those simply wanting to know about our church”.

2. How to act toward _____.

...we exhort you, brethren, admonish the idle, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. (1 Thessalonians 5:14-15 RSV)

2. 1: Special behavior toward three distinct types of people:

_____.

2.2: Three special attitudes are required for this:

_____.

_____.

_____.

3. How to act toward _____.

Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 RSV)

Do not quench the spirit, do not despise prophesying, but test everything; hold fast what is good, abstain from every form of evil. (1 Thessalonians 5:19-22 RSV)

May the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, and he will do it. (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 RSV)

A capital word to finish: _____.

Brethren, pray for us. Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss. I adjure you by the Lord that this letter be read to all the brethren. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
(1 Thessalonians 5:25-28 RSV)