

“We Beseech You, Brethren...”

I. Introduction

A. In 1 Thessalonians 5, the Holy Spirit through Paul gave a series of exhortations to the saints at Thessalonica. Consider ten specific teachings included in these. **1 Thessalonians 5:12-18**

II. “To Know Them...”

A. Verses 12 and 13 talk about the attitude members of a church should have toward elders doing the work God’s assigned them. Such should be esteemed “exceeding highly in love for their work’s sake.” **1 Thess. 5:12-13a; 1 Peter 5:2a; Hebrews 13:17**

III. “Be at Peace Among Yourselves”

A. Having the right attitude toward elders contributes to the next exhortation: being at peace among ourselves. Each of us should promote peace instead of strife. **1 Thess. 5:13b; Romans 14:19**

IV. “Admonish the Disorderly”

A. Though we must pursue peace, this does not diminish the responsibility we have to admonish those who are spiritually out of line. **1 Thess. 5:14a; Galatians 6:1**

V. “Encourage the Fainthearted”

A. Verse 14 further exhorts encouraging the fainthearted. We should have a concern for others that leads us to “rejoice with those who rejoice” and “weep with those who weep.”
1 Thess. 5:14b; 2:14; Romans 12:15

VI. “Support the Weak”

A. Christians are also commanded to support the weak. We are to do our best to lift each other up and bear one another’s burdens.
1 Thess. 5:14c; Romans 15:1; Galatians 6:2

VII. “Be Longsuffering Toward All”

A. The passage continues by commanding a longsuffering attitude toward others. If we love others as we should, we will not be short-tempered or easily provoked so as to lash out in hasty anger at others. **1 Thess. 5:14d; 1 Corinthians 13:4; 2 Peter 3:9**

VIII. “See That None Render...”

A. Being longsuffering toward others involves heeding the instruction of verse 15: not rendering evil for evil. Just as God has been good toward us even though we’ve sinned against Him, we should treat rightly even those who treat us wrongly. **1 Thes. 5:15; Romans 12:19-21; 1 Peter 3:9**

IX. “Rejoice Always”

A. The next exhortation given is for Christians to rejoice always. A permanent disposition of joy is possible “in the Lord.” **1 Thess. 5:16; Philippians 4:4**
B. Though life on earth has its share of sorrows even for God’s people, this doesn’t take away from the abiding sense of joy the Christian can have. **2 Corinthians 6:10a; John 16:22; James 1:2-3**

X. “Pray without Ceasing”

A. Verse 17 commands us to pray ceaselessly. The privilege of prayer is a remarkable blessing God offers, but it is also a duty, and something we must be continually devoted to. Each Christian bears responsibility to be prayerful.
1 Thess. 5:17; Philippians 4:6-7; Colossians 4:2

XI. “In Everything Give Thanks...”

A. Verse 18 speaks to the need for gratitude. The one who is right with God always has reason to be thankful.
1 Thess. 5:18; Romans 6:17-18; 1 Corinthians 15:57

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