

IMITATORS & EXAMPLES

A Series in 1 Thessalonians



Scripture Reading:
1 THESSALONIANS
5:12 – 18



1 THESSALONIANS 5:12 – 13

Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:14 – 18

And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.



**GOD'S WILL IS FOR US TO DO
THE HARD THING IN CHRIST.**

The purpose of theology is to fuel loving,
wise, passionate obedience.

PRACTICAL AREAS OF OBEDIENCE:

3 hard things for today (5 total):

1. Recognize and love your leaders
2. Serve others according to their true needs
3. Deliver consistently on the fundamentals of godliness

1. RECOGNIZE AND LOVE YOUR LEADERS

1 Thessalonians 5:12 – 13

Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.

YOUR LEADERS' REAL WORK & SPIRITUAL IMPORTANCE

1. **Toil:** Exhausting and hard labor
2. **Guardian:** Authoritative responsibility
3. **Admonish:** Tell you the hard truths you need

Multiplying effect: doing all three makes them all take a harder toll.

YOUR REGARD FOR YOUR LEADERS

1. "Highest regard"
2. In love
3. Because of their work

These three have a multiplying effect too.
An encouraging one.

APPLICATION:

Don't let your leaders in the Lord feel *unrecognized* or *unloved*. Encourage them.

2. SERVE OTHERS ACCORDING TO THEIR TRUE NEEDS

1 Thessalonians 5:14

And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.

WHAT DO THEY NEED IN GRACIOUS STRIVING?

The *idle* need admonishing to *exert* themselves.
The *timid* need to be given *courage*.
The *weak* need *help* bearing their burdens.

Everyone needs *patience*.

APPLICATION:

This is a good diagnostic to figure out what to do with people:

Are they idle? **Warn.**

Are they timid? **Encourage.**

Are they weak? **Help.**

Are they human? **Persevere with patience.**

3. DELIVER CONSISTENTLY ON THE FUNDAMENTALS OF GODLINESS

1 Thessalonians 5:15 – 18

Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always [rush] to be kind to each other and to everyone else. Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

MASTER THE FOUNDATIONAL PRACTICES OF GODLINESS

Forgive, and restrain yourself from revenge.

Be kind to Christians and everyone else.

Attend to *joy*.

Pray continually.

Give thanks reflexively in Christ.

These commands are given as absolutes.

**GOD'S WILL IS FOR US TO DO
THE HARD THING IN CHRIST.**

“In Christ Jesus” doesn't just mean because you are his disciples.

It also means in the power of *the Spirit* and *his promises*.

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