

VARIOUS EXHORTATIONS

1 Thes. 5:12-22

CONTEXT

1 Thessalonians:

- Written by: Paul
- Written to: church in Thessalonica
 - Relatively new church that Paul helped to build (2:13)
 - Afflicted / Persecuted (1:6, 2:14)
- Why?: Encourage them to continue and grow

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 - Relatively new church that Paul helped to build (2:13)
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- Why?: Encourage them to continue and grow

- Ch. 1-2: Recount of their conversion
- Ch. 3: Rejoicing over Timothy's report (3:6-7)
- Ch. 4: Continue to grow (4:1)

CONTEXT

Chapter 5:

- Judgement Day is coming. Be Ready! (5:5-6)
- Work together for this goal (5:11)

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Chapter 5:

- Judgement Day is coming. Be Ready! (5:5-6)
- Work together for this goal (5:11)
- How?: Various Exhortations (5:12-22)
 - 12-13: Attitude toward leaders
 - 14-15: Attitude toward brethren
 - 16-18: Attitude toward situations
 - 19-22: Attitude toward the Spirit

ATTITUDE TOWARD LEADERS (VS. 12-13)

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“¹²And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you,

- One group
- Elders / Deacons

1Tim 5:17

“Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor”

ATTITUDE TOWARD LEADERS (VS. 12-13)

Recognize (respect) those who:

Labor among you

- **Eph 4:28**
- 1 Tim 5:17

Are over you

- Heb 13:17

Admonish you

- Titus 1:9
- Prov 19:20

“Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.”

- Could mean physical labor

ATTITUDE TOWARD LEADERS (VS. 12-13)

Recognize (respect) those who:

Labor among you

- Eph 4:28
- **1 Tim 5:17**

Are over you

- Heb 13:17

Admonish you

- Titus 1:9
- Prov 19:20

“Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.”

- More likely spiritual labor
- Teach classes
- Know the Scriptures
- Work behind the scenes

ATTITUDE TOWARD LEADERS (VS. 12-13)

Recognize (respect) those who:

Labor among you

- Eph 4:28
- 1 Tim 5:17

Are over you

- **Heb 13:17**

Admonish you

- Titus 1:9
- Prov 19:20

“Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.”

- Trusting leaders can be difficult, especially when the stakes are high
- Harmful to both sides

ATTITUDE TOWARD LEADERS (VS. 12-13)

Recognize (respect) those who:

Labor among you

- Eph 4:28
- 1 Tim 5:17

Are over you

- Heb 13:17

Admonish you

- **Titus 1:9**
- Prov 19:20

“holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.”

- Qualification of Elders
- Not an easy thing to do

ATTITUDE TOWARD LEADERS (VS. 12-13)

Recognize (respect) those who:

Labor among you

- Eph 4:28
- 1 Tim 5:17

Are over you

- Heb 13:17

Admonish you

- Titus 1:9
- **Prov 19:20**

*“Listen to counsel and receive instruction,
That you may be wise in your latter days.”*

- We could be the subject of the correction
- They have our best interest in mind

ATTITUDE TOWARD LEADERS (VS. 12-13)

“¹³and to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. Be at peace among yourselves.”

- It all comes down to being at peace
- We are told many times to be of one mind

ATTITUDE TOWARD LEADERS (VS. 12-13)

Be at peace among yourselves:

- **Phil 1:27**
- Rom 15:6
- 1 Pet 3:8
- John 17:20-21
- Phil 2:1-4

“Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel”

- We all have the same goal

ATTITUDE TOWARD LEADERS (VS. 12-13)

Be at peace among yourselves:

- Phil 1:27
- **Rom 15:6**
- 1 Pet 3:8
- John 17:20-21
- Phil 2:1-4

“that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

ATTITUDE TOWARD LEADERS (VS. 12-13)

Be at peace among yourselves:

- Phil 1:27
- Rom 15:6
- **1 Pet 3:8**
- John 17:20-21
- Phil 2:1-4

“Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous”

- Love will end strife

ATTITUDE TOWARD LEADERS (VS. 12-13)

Be at peace among yourselves:

- Phil 1:27
- Rom 15:6
- 1 Pet 3:8
- **John 17:20-21**
- Phil 2:1-4

“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

- Jesus’ prayer
- The world notices if we are one

ATTITUDE TOWARD LEADERS (VS. 12-13)

Be at peace among yourselves:

- Phil 1:27
- Rom 15:6
- 1 Pet 3:8
- John 17:20-21
- **Phil 2:1-4**

“¹Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, ²fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. ³Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. ⁴Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”

- Humility is the answer

ATTITUDE TOWARD LEADERS (VS. 12-13)

Be at peace among yourselves:

- Phil 1:27
- Rom 15:6
- 1 Pet 3:8
- John 17:20-21
- Phil 2:1-4

Paul's example of humility:

- **1 Cor 15:9**
- 1 Tim 1:15

“For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.”

- Paul lives what he preaches

ATTITUDE TOWARD LEADERS (VS. 12-13)

Be at peace among yourselves:

- Phil 1:27
- Rom 15:6
- 1 Pet 3:8
- John 17:20-21
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Paul's example of humility:

- 1 Cor 15:9
- **1 Tim 1:15**

“This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.”

- What does that make us?

A congregation will be stronger if they have the right attitude toward leaders

ATTITUDE TOWARD BRETHREN (VS. 14-15)

ATTITUDE TOWARD BRETHREN (VS. 14-15)

“¹⁴Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.”

- Each group requires different treatment
- Treating them correctly helps the church to grow.

ATTITUDE TOWARD BRETHREN (VS. 14-15)

Warn the unruly:

- **2 Thes 3:10-11**
- John 15:2
- James 5:20

“For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies.”

- Disorderly = unruly
- Includes those who are simply not working
- Is it us?

ATTITUDE TOWARD BRETHREN (VS. 14-15)

Warn the unruly:

- 2 Thes 3:10-11
- **John 15:2**
- James 5:20

“Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”

- *What good are we to God if we don't bear fruit?*
- *Bad influence on the rest of the congregation*

ATTITUDE TOWARD BRETHREN (VS. 14-15)

Warn the unruly:

- 2 Thes 3:10-11
- John 15:2
- **James 5:20**

“let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.”

- We warn because we love
- We should want to be warned if we become unruly

ATTITUDE TOWARD BRETHREN (VS. 14-15)

Warn the unruly:

- 2 Thes 3:10-11
- John 15:2
- James 5:20

Comfort the fainthearted:

- **Eph 3:13**
- Gal 6:9
- 1 Thes 4:13-14

“Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.”

- We could become fainthearted because of fear of persecution

ATTITUDE TOWARD BRETHREN (VS. 14-15)

Warn the unruly:

- 2 Thes 3:10-11
- John 15:2
- James 5:20

Comfort the fainthearted:

- Eph 3:13
- **Gal 6:9**
- 1 Thes 4:13-14

“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”

- Lack of immediate results
- We must remember that our reward will come

ATTITUDE TOWARD BRETHREN (VS. 14-15)

Warn the unruly:

- 2 Thes 3:10-11
- John 15:2
- James 5:20

Comfort the fainthearted:

- Eph 3:13
- Gal 6:9
- **1 Thes 4:13-14**

“But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.”

- Thessalonians were losing hope because of lost brethren
- We are to comfort these no matter the cause

ATTITUDE TOWARD BRETHREN (VS. 14-15)

Uphold the weak

- **Rom 5:6**

“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.”

- Weak = spiritually immature
- Support the weak in understanding
- Christ did for all of us

ATTITUDE TOWARD BRETHREN (VS. 14-15)

Uphold the weak

- Rom 5:6

Be patient with all

- **Eph 4:2**
- 2 Tim 2:24

“with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love”

- Can be discouraging when brethren grow slower than we would like
- Key word: love

ATTITUDE TOWARD BRETHREN (VS. 14-15)

Uphold the weak

- Rom 5:6

Be patient with all

- Eph 4:2
- **2 Tim 2:24**

“And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient”

- Our job description
- Must patiently teach

ATTITUDE TOWARD BRETHREN (VS. 14-15)

“¹⁵See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.”

- Help each other abide by vs. 14
- Continuation of patience

ATTITUDE TOWARD BRETHREN (VS. 14-15)

- **Rom 12:9, 17**
- Rom 12:20
- 1 Cor 6:7
- Mt 5:44
- Rom 13:10

“⁹Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.”

“¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.”

- We are to hate evil
- That hatred shouldn't make us lose patience

ATTITUDE TOWARD BRETHREN (VS. 14-15)

- Rom 12:9, 17
- **Rom 12:20**
- 1 Cor 6:7
- Mt 5:44
- Rom 13:10

*“If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
If he is thirsty, give him a drink;
For in so doing you will heap coals of fire
on his head.”*

- Returning evil for evil will not help anyone
- Showing kindness could turn them from evil

ATTITUDE TOWARD BRETHREN (VS. 14-15)

- Rom 12:9, 17
- Rom 12:20
- **1 Cor 6:7**
- Mt 5:44
- Rom 13:10

“Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated?”

- Show kindness to enemies of the world
- How much more to our brethren?
- Disputes can be handled in love without creating a lifelong strife

ATTITUDE TOWARD BRETHREN (VS. 14-15)

- Rom 12:9, 17
- Rom 12:20
- 1 Cor 6:7
- **Mt 5:44**
- Rom 13:10

“But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you”

- Jesus’ teaching
- Who better to tell us how to treat enemies

ATTITUDE TOWARD BRETHREN (VS. 14-15)

- Rom 12:9, 17
- Rom 12:20
- 1 Cor 6:7
- Mt 5:44
- **Rom 13:10**

*“Love does no harm to a neighbor;
therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.”*

- *“pursue what is good for all”*
- *Love*

A congregation should work together in
love toward a common goal

ATTITUDE TOWARD SITUATIONS (VS. 16-18)

ATTITUDE TOWARD SITUATIONS (VS. 16-18)

“¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

- Our life situation should not affect our service to the Lord

ATTITUDE TOWARD SITUATIONS (VS. 16-18)

Rejoice always:

- **1 Pet 1:3-4**
- 1 Pet 1:8-9
- Phil 4:4
- Phil 4:11
- Rom 8:35-39

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you”

- What do we have to complain about?

ATTITUDE TOWARD SITUATIONS (VS. 16-18)

Rejoice always:

- 1 Pet 1:3-4
- **1 Pet 1:8-9**
- Phil 4:4
- Phil 4:11
- Rom 8:35-39

“Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.”

- Always remember what a great gift we’ve been given.
- Shows God and men our faith

ATTITUDE TOWARD SITUATIONS (VS. 16-18)

Rejoice always:

- 1 Pet 1:3-4
- 1 Pet 1:8-9
- **Phil 4:4**
- Phil 4:11
- Rom 8:35-39

“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!”

- There are no exceptions
- Paul recognizes that it is easy to forget our joy

ATTITUDE TOWARD SITUATIONS (VS. 16-18)

Rejoice always:

- 1 Pet 1:3-4
- 1 Pet 1:8-9
- Phil 4:4
- **Phil 4:11**
- Rom 8:35-39

“Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content”

- *Again, Paul lives what he preaches*
- *From a Roman prison!*

ATTITUDE TOWARD SITUATIONS (VS. 16-18)

Rejoice always:

- 1 Pet 1:3-4
- 1 Pet 1:8-9
- Phil 4:4
- Phil 4:11
- **Rom 8:35-39**

*³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written:
“For Your sake we are killed all day long;
We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter...”*

ATTITUDE TOWARD SITUATIONS (VS. 16-18)

Rejoice always:

- 1 Pet 1:3-4
- 1 Pet 1:8-9
- Phil 4:4
- Phil 4:11
- **Rom 8:35-39**

³⁷Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

³⁸For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- No matter what happens in life, we will always have Christ's love
- That should be enough

ATTITUDE TOWARD SITUATIONS (VS. 16-18)

Rejoice always:

- 1 Pet 1:3-4
- 1 Pet 1:8-9
- Phil 4:4
- Phil 4:11
- Rom 8:35-39

Pray without ceasing:

- **Phil 4:6-7**
- 1 Pet 3:12
- 1 Jn 5:14

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

- Helps us to remain joyful
- No longer need to be anxious if it is in God’s hand

ATTITUDE TOWARD SITUATIONS (VS. 16-18)

Rejoice always:

- 1 Pet 1:3-4
- 1 Pet 1:8-9
- Phil 4:4
- Phil 4:11
- Rom 8:35-39

Pray without ceasing:

- Phil 4:6-7
- **1 Pet 3:12**
- 1 Jn 5:14

*“For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
And His ears are open to their prayers;
But the face of the Lord is against those
who do evil.”*

- What a blessing!
- Take advantage of it

ATTITUDE TOWARD SITUATIONS (VS. 16-18)

Rejoice always:

- 1 Pet 1:3-4
- 1 Pet 1:8-9
- Phil 4:4
- Phil 4:11
- Rom 8:35-39

Pray without ceasing:

- Phil 4:6-7
- 1 Pet 3:12
- **1 Jn 5:14**

“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”

- Prayer works

ATTITUDE TOWARD SITUATIONS (VS. 16-18)

In everything give thanks:

- **James 1:2-3**
- James 1:17

“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.”

- If we are praying, we should be giving thanks
- We should be thankful for anything that makes us a stronger Christian

ATTITUDE TOWARD SITUATIONS (VS. 16-18)

In everything give thanks:

- James 1:2-3
- **James 1:17**

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”

- Don't forget who the blessing come from

Rejoicing in our situations helps us focus on troubles of brethren

Pray for the congregation

We are more willing to work for God if we appreciate what we have

ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SPIRIT (VS. 19-22)

ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SPIRIT (VS. 19-22)

“¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies. ²¹Test all things; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil.”

- Slightly different application for Thessalonians and us.

ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SPIRIT (VS. 19-22)

Thessalonians:

- **1 Cor 14:3-4**
- 1 Cor 12:10
- 1 John 4:1-2
- 2 Pet 1:20-21

“But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.”

- Focus on church over individual
- Prophecies brought truth to the early Church

ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SPIRIT (VS. 19-22)

Thessalonians:

- 1 Cor 14:3-4
- **1 Cor 12:10**
- 1 John 4:1-2
- 2 Pet 1:20-21

“to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.”

- Some could miraculously discern the spirits

ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SPIRIT (VS. 19-22)

Thessalonians:

- 1 Cor 14:3-4
- 1 Cor 12:10
- **1 John 4:1-2**
- 2 Pet 1:20-21

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God”

- Prophecies could be tested without miraculous spiritual gifts
- True prophecies would never contradict past teaching

ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SPIRIT (VS. 19-22)

Thessalonians:

- 1 Cor 14:3-4
- 1 Cor 12:10
- 1 John 4:1-2
- **2 Pet 1:20-21**

“knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

- Do not despise prophecies because men deliver them
- Just the messenger
- They were to *“hold fast what is good”*

ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SPIRIT (VS. 19-22)

Thessalonians:

- 1 Cor 14:3-4
- 1 Cor 12:10
- 1 John 4:1-2
- 2 Pet 1:20-21

Us:

- **Matt 5:14-15**
- Acts 17:11

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.”

- The spirit teaches us through the Word
- Do not quench it

ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SPIRIT (VS. 19-22)

Thessalonians:

- 1 Cor 14:3-4
- 1 Cor 12:10
- 1 John 4:1-2
- 2 Pet 1:20-21

Us:

- Matt 5:14-15
- **Acts 17:11**

“These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.”

- We also hear teaching from men
- We are just as responsible for testing their teaching.
- Do not despise the teaching just because a man delivered it

A congregation will always grow closer to God if they have the right attitude toward the Spirit