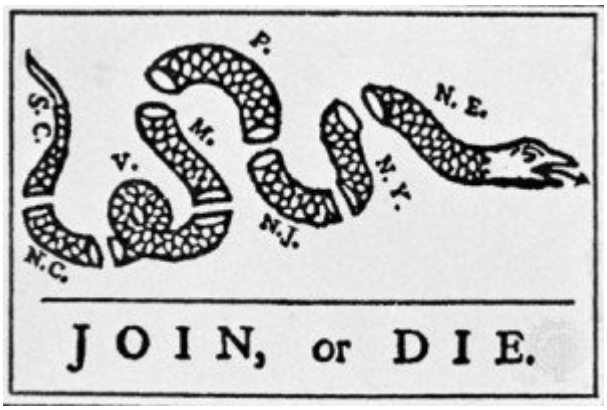
1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

The Attitudes and Actions of a Godly Congregation

INTRO- The <u>united</u> Colonies of America. Franklin's famous "join or die" cartoon.



What was going well in the Bible Church of Thessalonica? What were some of the pastoral concerns?

(1 Thess. 1:2-3; 2:19-20; 3:9)

Even the healthiest of churches and Christians can find plenty of areas to "excel still more" in!

In relation to what 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 teaches, how might you "excel still more?'

<u>Three elder/pastoral tasks are mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13</u>

1) **Faithful shepherds will** _____

(*1 Thess. 5:12*; 2:5-8; Col. 1:28-29; 1 Cor. 15:10)

<u>Three elder/pastoral tasks are mentioned in 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13</u>

2) **Elders exercise spiritual oversight over** _____.

(*1 Thess. 5:12*; 1 Tim. 5:17; Heb. 13:17)

3) **Biblical "overseers" provide** _____
_____.

(*1 Thess. 5:12*; Titus 1:9; Heb. 13:7)

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1) _____
_____.

(*1 Thess. 5:12-13; 1 Peter 5:5*)

2) **Hold your spiritual leaders in the highest regard by** _____
_____.

(*1 Thess. 5:12-13; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; Gal. 6:16; Heb. 13:17*)

<u>What practical applications did the Spirit impress upon your heart this morning as God's Word was read, explained, and preached?</u>

For Further Reflection/Application: *We must be doers of God's Word and not merely hearers only.*

As you look back on the previous 15 sermons on shepherdology, sheepology, and ecclesiology (the doctrine of the Church) which messages have been the most helpful/ encouraging/ challenging/ and/or insightful to you and why? (please consult the series outline that was distributed last week).

In the last message (9/15) a biblical case for *overseers* (church elders) directing the affairs of the congregation within the boundaries of Scripture was made. (Note the four key proof texts and the three key terms/words). This AM's follow up message expands upon what we established last Sunday. If you were not here, you can get a free sermon CD in the foyer or visit our church website.

Am I honoring Christ (through Scriptural obedience) by fleshing out the practical implications of 1 Thess. 5:12-13; Gal. 6:6; 1 Tim. 5:17-20; and Heb. 13:17 on a consistent basis? If so, how? If not, why? Why is it so important that we obey what Scripture declares here? Read the four passages above to guide your home care group discussion time.

What can happen when members and fellow church leaders do not understand what their specific roles/duties are within the local church? Illustration: When watching an enjoyable baseball contest the coaches, position players, and umpires understand what they're supposed to do; (in their respective roles).

True unity is a tremendous blessing and should never be taken for granted (Eph. 4:1-6; Ps. 133; Phil. 2:1-4). If you've ever been apart of a nasty "church split" or a "messy divorce" you understand how true this is.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 says- "Live at peace with one another." Church members need to labor in Christ's strength to get along. Play nice. Work things out. Agree not to disagree. I've heard many worn out, veteran pastors say that sometimes it feels like all they ever do is "*put out fires*."

A little bit of "unruly" yeast can impact the whole lump of dough (Gal. 5:9; 1 Cor 3; 5:6). If someone is violating the spirit of 1 Thess. 5:12-13 and Hebrews 13:17 with your local church and you're aware of it, what is your biblical responsibility? (see 1 Thess. 5:14; Gal. 6:1-4). We are our brother's keeper so long as we watch over one another in a Christ-like manner.

How does getting to know your church leaders on a more intimate/personal level help them know how to better shepherd/lead you and your family? How does it help you to more effectively apply 1 Thess. 5:12-13?

The Master's Plan for the church (when implemented) ushers in deeper fellowship and even greater unity!

What has the Lord put on your heart to do as a result of this exposition of 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

Related Scripture Passages: Search the Scriptures to see if this be so.

1 Thess. 5:12-13; Gal. 6:1-6; 1 Tim. 5:17-20; Heb. 13:17; 1 Peter 5:1-5; Titus 2:15; Psalm 133.

Recommended Resources: *"Visit many good books but, live in the Bible;" Charles Spurgeon.*

If You Bite and Devour One Another: Biblical Principles for Handling Church Conflict- by Alexander Strauch
The Book Your Pastor Wishes You Would Read (but is too embarrassed to ask)- by Christopher Ash

All related sermons can be downloaded for free on our website at www.lakecountrybible.org
CDs are available *immediately* following the service in the foyer.