



I THESSALONIANS

a future for now

1 Thessalonians 5:12-22 – What Is God’s Will For Life In The Church?

Part 1

May 12, 2024

- Verses 12-13 — God’s will between pastors and their people
- Verses 14-15 — God’s will with troublesome people in the church
- Verses 16-18 — God’s will on church worship
- Verses 19-22 — God’s will on testing prophecy

1. What are pastors’ responsibilities to their people?

A. Pastors must labor among the people, even to the point of exhaustion.

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you...
1 Thessalonians 5:12 (ESV)

For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.

1 Thessalonians 2:9 (ESV)

But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. 1 Thessalonians 2:7 (ESV)

For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you,
2 Thessalonians 3:7 (ESV)

Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. Colossians 1:28 (ESV)

B. Pastors are responsible for exercising spiritual authority.

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who... are over you in the Lord... 1 Thessalonians 5:12 (ESV)

C. Pastors are responsible for providing biblical instruction.

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who... admonish you, 1 Thessalonians 5:12 (ESV)

He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it. Titus 1:9 (ESV)

2. What are people's responsibilities to their pastors?

A. People are to respect their pastors.

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, 1 Thessalonians 5:12 (ESV)

Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. 1 Timothy 5:17 (ESV)

In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel. 1 Corinthians 9:14 (ESV)

B. People are to have high esteem for their pastors.

...to esteem them very highly in love because of their work... 1 Thessalonians 5:13a (ESV)

and though my condition was a trial to you, you did not scorn or despise me, but received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus. Galatians 4:14 (ESV)

...For I testify to you that, if possible, you would have gouged out your eyes and given them to me. Galatians 4:15 (ESV)

C. People are to get along with one another.

...Be at peace among yourselves. 1 Thessalonians 5:13 (ESV)

...let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. Romans 14:19 (ESV)

be eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:3 (ESV)

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.
Hebrews 13:17 (ESV)

3. What is the church's responsibility to one another?

And we urge you, brothers,... 1 Thessalonians 5:14a (ESV)

A. We are to admonish the idle.

And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle,...
1 Thessalonians 5:14 (ESV)

B. We are to encourage the worried.

And we urge you, brothers, ... encourage the fainthearted,...
1 Thessalonians 5:14 (ESV)

C. We are to help the weak.

And we urge you, brothers, ... help the weak,...
1 Thessalonians 5:14 (ESV)

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness....

Galatians 6:1a (ESV)

D. We are to be patient with the wearisome.

And we urge you, brothers, ... be patient with them all.
1 Thessalonians 5:14 (ESV)

E. We are never to take revenge.

See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.

1 Thessalonians 5:15 (ESV)

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord. Romans 12:19 (ESV)

To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:20–21 (ESV)

For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

Matthew 5:46 (ESV)

Life Group Questions

2. **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12.** People in the church are to respect their pastors and leaders. The Greek word for respect means to know by experience. Why is it important to know pastors and church leaders personally? What problems does this avoid?
3. **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:13, Romans 14:19, Ephesians 4:3.** Why is it important to overlook offenses and assume the best in people, not the worst?
4. Paul tells us everyone in the church, not just the leaders, has a responsibility to help struggling people. How does that change how you view your Christian responsibility at CrossWinds?
5. **Read 1 Thessalonians 4:14.** After looking over the different problems people have in the church, did someone come to mind who fits one of these categories? If so, write that name down and ask the group to hold you accountable for meeting with that person and lovingly encourage them on the right path.
6. **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:15.** Have you ever been sinned against by someone in the church? What are the right and wrong ways to respond when that happens?