

Home Group Helps

1 Thessalonians 5:14-15

Living in the Light of His Return: Body Life in the Light of His Return

¹⁴ And we urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all men. ¹⁵ See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all men.

Five Categories of People Needing Care:

I. The Unruly – these we are to admonish

II. The Fainthearted – these we are to encourage

III. The Weak – these we are to help

IV. All Other Christians (“one another”) – these we are to be patient with and to not repay another with evil for evil, but always seeking that which is good

V. Everyone (“all men” identical as IV) – these we are to be patient with and to not repay another with evil for evil, but always seeking that which is good

1. Launching Question(s):

- Can you describe a time when God has used a needy person in your own life to grow your spiritual maturity and faith?

2. Observation Question(s):

- Is Paul being legalistic by urging the Christians of Thessalonica to obey these instructions?
- Why or why not?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- An “unruly” person is likely an idle, lazy, apathetic Christian who is “out of step” with the rest of the church.
- How can you recognize such a one?
- How can this person hurt the church?
- How might we “admonish” (“warn”) such a one?
- A “fainthearted” person is “little-souled.” They deal with fear, anxiety, depression, self-loathing, etc.
- How can you recognize such a one?
- How can this person hurt the church?
- How might we “encourage” (speak alongside”) such a one?
- A “weak” Christian is one struggling with self-control and faith or, perhaps, even physical infirmities.
- How can you recognize such a one?
- How can this person hurt the church?
- How might we “help” (“cling to,” “support,” “hold up”) such a one?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- Is there ever a time when it is appropriate for a Christian to seek personal vengeance?
- Why or why not?

5. Application Question(s):

- Can you prayerfully seek out a needy person this week and apply these principles?

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