

TEXT- 1 Thess. 5:11-24

INTRO – The structure of a church influences the growth and perseverance of it. Relationships are with people who are human beings. Sometimes we fail to realize God has a plan in how we should respond to each other. We are called brothers and sisters in Christ. We are all to be subject unto the Lord who is the chief shepherd and the cornerstone of our faith. The following relationships illustrate God's plan of response found in every church family.

All of these relationships require that we edify one another.

I. The People to Pastor

A. Know the pastor

know his needs, pray for him and his family

B. Esteem him highly - For the sake of the ministry

The position of pastor must be held high

- You must always put yourself under the authority of the pastor.
- You must be willing to receive instruction from him.
- Choose to be an encourager and speak highly of him always.
- Learn to love your pastor and his family.

C. Obey him

1 Timothy 2:1-2 *I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.*

Hebrews 13:7 *Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.*

Hebrews 13:17 *Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*

D. Follow him – (Follow his leadership)

1 Corinthians 11:1 *Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.*

II. The Pastor to People

A. The pastor must be a laborer

He must labor to study, teach, witness and train others

He must be a man of prayer. We must work for the night cometh.

1 Timothy 5:18 *For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.*

B. He must be a leader

- He must command the respect of his followers

2 Tim 2:3 *Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ*
1 Timothy 3:1-7 *This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. 2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; 3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; 4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; 5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) 6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.*

- He must train others to be leaders

2 Timothy 2:2 *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*

- He must make himself accountable to his church family

1 Corinthians 14:32 *And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.*

C. He must be a learner

Study the Word and minister to the church

Acts 6:4 *But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.*

D. He must love the sheep

John 21:15-17 *So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. 16 He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. 17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.*

1 Corinthians 13:13 *And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.*

III. The People to People

A. Warn those that are in sin

B. Comfort those that mourn

C. Support the weak

John 13:34-35 *A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

D. Be patient with all men

1 Corinthians 12:22-27 *Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: 23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. 24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: 25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. 26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. 27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.*

E. Do good to all men

1 Corinthians 12:12 *For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body so also is Christ.*

F. Love the brethren

1 John 3:14 *We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.*

G. Make your home happy

Proverbs 5:18 *Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth.*

Psalms 127:3-5 *Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. 4 As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. 5 Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.*

IV. The People to God

A. Rejoice in the Lord

Psalms 40:3 *And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.*

B. Pray without ceasing

C. Be thankful

D. Be filled with the Spirit

Ephesians 5:18 *And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;*

E. Enjoy the preaching of the Bible

F. Be discerning

G. Abstain from the appearance of evil

H. Be holy

1 Peter 1:15-16 *But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*

V. The God to People

A. God sanctifies us and makes us more Godly

1 Thessalonians 5:23 *And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

B. The Lord preserves us

John 10:28-29 *And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. 29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*

C. The Lord is coming again for us

John 14:3 *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

D. Our God is faithful to us

1Th 5:24 *Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.*

CONCL - *“God can’t use a man greatly until He wounds him deeply”*