

1 **Advice for the church family**

1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

2 **1 Thessalonians 5:12-22**

And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you,¹³ and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.¹⁴ Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.

3 **1 Thessalonians 5:12-22**

¹⁵ See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all. ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies. ²¹ Test all things; hold fast what is good. ²² Abstain from every form of evil.

4 **Advice for the church family**

1. Honor Your Leaders
2. Care for the Spiritual Invalids
3. Demonstrate God's Will
4. Develop a Healthy Church Body

5 **Honor your leaders**

- Accept Them – v. 12: *"We urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you."*
 - God's gifts to the church.
 - They have spiritual authority from the Lord.
 - Are they perfect? No!

6 **How to get rid of your pastor**

- Sit up front, smile, and say "amen" every time he says something good. He will preach himself to death.
- Pat him on the back and tell him what good work he is doing in the church and community. He will work himself to death.
- Increase your offering in the church. He will suffer shock.

7 **How to get rid of your pastor (2)**

- Tell him you've decided to share your faith and win souls for Christ. He will probably suffer a heart attack.
- Get the whole church to band together and pray for him. He will get so efficient that some other church will hear about him and give him a call. That will take him off your hands.

8 **Esteem your leaders**

- v. 13: *"... and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake."*
 - Love them.
 - Honor them.
 - Appreciate them.

9 **Live in peace by following your leaders**

- v. 13b: *"Be at peace among yourselves."*
- One of the great tragedies of the Christian world is the breakdown between leadership and follow-ship.
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10 **Care for the spiritual invalids**

- Warn the unruly – v. 14: *"Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly."*
- Encourage the fainthearted – v. 14b: *"Now we exhort you, brethren, . . . comfort the fainthearted."*
- Help the Weak – v. 14c: *"Now we exhort you, brethren . . . uphold the weak."*
- Be patient with everyone– v. 14d" *"Now we exhort you, brethren . . . be patient with all."*

11 **Demonstrate God's will**

- Be Joyful – v. 16: *"Rejoice always."*
- Be Prayerful – v. 17: *"Pray without ceasing."*
- Be Thankful – v. 18: *"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*

12 **Psalm 100:1=3 A psalm of thanksgiving**

¹ Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth! ² Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy. ³ Acknowledge that the Lord is God! He made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

13 **Psalm 100:4-5**

⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name. ⁵ For the Lord is good. is unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation. (NLT)

14 **Develop a healthy church body**

- Do not quench the Spirit – v. 19: *"Do not quench the Spirit."*
- Test and examine every word–v. 20: *"Do not despise prophecies. ²¹ Test all things; hold fast what is good."*
- Live a godly life – v. 22: *"Abstain from every form of evil."*