

The New Testament Church: Relationships Fostered 1 Thessalonians 5:13-15

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A. Sheep to Sheep Relationships: Two Requirements

1. Be a sheep transformed by the Gospel of the Lord Jesus
1 Thess. 1:4-5, 1 Thess. 2:13, John 3:3, 1 Peter 1:22-23

2. Be a sheep obedient to the Commands of God
1 Thess. 4:1
 - a. Obedience motivated and sustained by love
2 Cor. 5:14-15, John 13:34-35
 - b. Obedience of delight and joy for the good of others
1 John 3:23, 1 John 5:3

3. Be a sheep who consistently puts the interests of others first
1 Thess. 4:9-10

B. Sheep to Sheep Relationships: Our Ministry Together

1. We are responsible to serve one another
 - a. By maintaining peace in the body
1 Thess. 5:13, Eph. 4:1-3
 - b. By actively serving one another toward spiritual maturity
1 Thess. 1:3, Eph. 4:12, Eph. 2:8-10

2. We serve the sheep of the Lord's pasture as they are
 - a. Lazy Sheep: 1 Thess. 5:14, Prov. 27:6, 2 Thess. 3:10-12
 - b. Discouraged Sheep: 1 Thess. 5:14b, Isaiah 42:3
 - c. Struggling Sheep: 1 Thess. 5:14c, Rom. 15:1, Gal. 6:2

3. We serve the sheep of the Lord's pasture as He does
 - a. Through patience: 1 Thess. 5:14d, Exodus 34:5-6
 - b. With impartiality: 1 Thess. 5:14e, 2 Tim. 2:24
 - c. For their good: 1 Thess. 5:15