

1 Thessalonians 5:12-18
Submission: The Obedience of Faith

Introduction

1. Reminder of Structure:
 - a. Chapters 1-3 focused on the Past and Present Relationship between Paul and the Church
 - b. Chapters 4-5:11 focuses on the Present Holiness and Hope of the Thessalonians
2. Chapter 5:12-28 concentrates on Church Community Life
3. Key Word for our Text is *Brothers* – This term is not pointing to all the males in the church. This term is inclusive of both males and females
 - a. Used 5x in this text
 - b. vv. 12, 14, 25, 26, 27 = Common Membership in the Family of God

Main Point of 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

The Nature of God's Church Community is Characterized by Servant Leadership, Responsible Conformity, Spiritual Family Fellowship, and Godly Public Worship. Each plays a part in Your Sanctification.

The Leader & The Led: Service & Conformity (vv 12-13)

The Leader – Servant Leadership in the Community of God

1. Pastoral Leadership = Parental Leadership (2:7, 11)
2. Hard Work Among the Flock – Guide & Instruct
 - a. **See 1 Cor 15:10**
3. Over the Flock IN the Lord
 - a. Authority Under Authority
 - b. Servant Leader (Mark 10:42-45)
4. Admonishes the Flock – Correct & Encourage

The Led – Responsible Conformity in the Community of God

1. Esteem & Respect the Leaders with Holy Affection
2. Promotes a Teachable Spirit in the Congregation
3. Brings about the Bond of Peace between Pastors and Members

Spiritual Family Fellowship (vv 14-15)

1. Admonish the Idle (Ephesians 4:15-16)
2. Encourage the Timid
3. Support the Weak
4. Be Patient with ALL
 - a. Be Kind and Forgiving
 - b. Seek the Good
 - c. Heal rather than Hurt

Godly Public Worship (vv 16-28)

1. Public Worship
 - a. Verbs are Plural
 - b. Prophesying is an Act of Public Worship
 - c. The *Holy Kiss* is Public
 - d. The Reading of Scripture is Public
2. Manner & Approach to Public Worship
 - a. Joy – v 16
 - i. **See Phil 4:4; Ps 95:1, 100:1-2**
 - b. Pray – vv 17, 25
 - i. Constant, Ceaseless
 - ii. For Us – The Mission of God
 - c. Give Thanks – v 18 (God is in Total Control)
 - d. Listen/Receive the Word of God – 20-22, 27
 - i. Do not despise Prophesying (**Eph 2:20**)
 - ii. Test what is Said = Hold on to the Good! Abstain from the Bad!
 - iii. Reading Scripture – Paul's Letter is God's Word (**2 Peter 3:15-16**)
 - e. Respond to the Word – v 19
 - i. Let the Holy Spirit Move You!
 - ii. Do not Extinguish His Light or Fire

God Faithfully Sanctifies & Preserves You Until the Day (vv 23-24, 28)

God Graces us with A Faithful Pastorate, The Care of the Community, and Sunday Worship to Sanctify You & Keep You Blameless for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ!