

D3 – Ministry: Caring for One Another in the Body of Christ (1 Thessalonians 5:14)

Wellspring Purpose and Disciplines:

Introduction:

Overview:

- Authors
 - Paul
 - Silvanus (Silas)
 - Timothy
- Letter
 - Chapter 1 - Paul's joy over the fruit of their salvation
 - Chapter 2 - Paul's recognition of their suffering
 - Chapter 3 - Paul's relief over Timothy's report
 - Chapter 4,5 - Instructions
 - godly living
 - relationships within the body

Summary of the Thessalonian church:

- **It is a very young church with genuine gospel fruit.**
- **They are living in much tribulation.**
- **They are persevering and doing well.**
- **There is still much they need to know about the Christian life.**

1 Thessalonians 5:14 - Caring for One Another in the Body of Christ:

- *"We urge you, brethren"*
 - Urge - to exhort strongly
 - Brethren - fellow believers who are united to one another by a bond of affection

- *"Admonish the unruly"*
 - Admonish - to warn

The two aims of admonishment:

- 1. To help another see their sin**
- 2. To point them to a clear path of repentance, turning away from sin to obey Jesus**

- Unruly - to deviate from the prescribed order or rule

- Examples of unruliness
 - Idleness, 1 Th 4:11; 2 Th 3:10-11

 - Impurity, 1 Th 4:1-8

- Three Principles for admonishment from Paul’s example in 1 Th 4:1-8:
 - Go with the love and care of a brother/sister, seeking to restore, 1 Th 4:1; 2 Th 3:15.
 - Rely on the power and authority of God in His Word, 1 Th 4:1-3, 7-8.
 - Make clear the connection between obedience and the believer’s identity in Christ, 1 Th 4:3-5, 8.

Those who KNOW God	Those who DON'T KNOW God
<p>God’s will is their sanctification...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • holiness of life • sexual purity • possessing their body in holiness and honor <p>God has given His Holy Spirit to them</p>	<p>Live in...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sexual immorality • lustful passions • impurity

- Practical considerations

- *"Encourage the fainthearted"*
 - Fainthearted - discouraged, disheartened, despondent; lit., "little spirited" or "small souled"

 - Encourage - to speak alongside, and in so doing, to offer comfort and consolation
 - The attitude and aim of Paul's encouragement, 1 Th 2:11-12
 - *"each one of you"*

 - *"as a father"*

 - *"so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you"*

Some questions to ask ourselves as we seek to encourage the fainthearted...

- 1. Do I understand the needs of this particular sister or brother in Christ?**
- 2. Am I being tender and compassionate?**
- 3. Will my encouragement help them mature in Christ...to walk in a manner worthy of God?**

- Examples of Paul's encouragement – TRUTH and LOVE, 1 Th 1,2

Verse	Encouragement
1:2	Tells them that he thanks God for them Tells them that he prays for them
1:3	Reminds them of the gospel fruit in their lives... ...their work of faith ...their labor of love ...their steadfastness of hope in Jesus
1:4	Reminds them that they are beloved by God Reminds them that God chose them Reminds that that they are his brothers
1:5	Reminds them of how the gospel came to them
1:6	Reminds them that they received the gospel in much tribulation but also with the joy of the Holy Spirit
1:7, 8	Reminds them of the example they have been Reminds them of how far the gospel has spread because of them
1:9	Reminds them of their conversion, that they turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God and to wait for his Son from heaven
1:9	Reminds them that their living, true God raised their Savior Jesus from the dead
1:9	Reminds them that Jesus rescues them from the wrath to come
2:1-2, 9	Reminds them of his own suffering, hardship, and hard work
2:2-5	Assures them of the trustworthiness of the gospel message
2:7-9, 17-19	Reminds them of his own love for them...his tenderness, affection, devotion, and desire for them, and the joy he has because of them
2:12	Reminds them that God has called them into His own kingdom
2:13	Points them to the ultimate source of encouragement, God's Word Reminds them that God's Word performs its work in those who believe

- Other considerations for encouraging the fainthearted

- *“Help the weak”*
 - Help - to hold oneself alongside of another, and by implication, to care for, to hold fast, to support

 - Weak - lacking strength (broad range of meaning in Scripture, but here in 1 Thes., weak in the faith)

 - Three Examples of Paul’s help for the Thessalonians
 - like the tender, gentle care of a mother for her baby, 1 Th 2:7

 - sent Timothy to strengthen and encourage them in their faith, 1 Th 3:1-2

 - instructed them in order to complete what is lacking in their faith, 1 Th 3:10

 - Two ways to help the weak be strengthened and established in living out their faith
 - Remind them of what they know, commend them for how they are obeying, and challenge them to continue and to apply it in a broader way, 1 Th 4:1-12.

 - Inform them of truth they do not yet know, and teach them the implications of that truth, 1 Th 4:13,18.

- Ideas for application
 - Paul's instruction helped them connect _____ with how they needed to think, live, and respond in light of that _____.

- *"Be patient with everyone"*

- Patient - longsuffering; to bear with; the quality of self-restraint in the face of provocation which does not hastily retaliate

- A heart check, Gal 5:22; 1 Co 13:4

- A reality check

- Paul's example of patience with the Thessalonians

Conclusion:

- Three principles from Paul's life to fuel our care for others
 - He sought to please God, not man, 1 Th 2:4.
 - *...but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts.* [1Th 2:4]
 - He had a deep love for God's people, 1 Th 2:17, 19; 3:12.
 - *But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short while--in person, not in spirit--were all the more eager with great desire to see your face. ... 19 For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?* [1Th 2:17, 19]
 - *...and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also do for you...* [1Th 3:12]
 - He was confident in the Word of God, 1 Th 2:13.
 - *For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.* [1Th 2:13]

How Paul's Example Protects our Ministry
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It protects against being motivated by the fear of man, or loving the approval of others. 2. It protects us from being harsh or impatient. 3. It protects us from looking to unbiblical methods or solutions. 4. It protects us from making people dependent on us, because we are teaching them to depend on God's Word.