

I THESSALONIANS 5:12-28

VII. PAUL'S EDIFICATION FOR THE THESSALONIANS (5:12-23)

- A. Told them how to have the right kind of relationship with spiritual leaders (12-13).
 - 1. A right kind of relationship called upon them first of all to "**know**" or recognize those who labored in spiritual things and were over them and admonishing them (12). When folks refuse to recognize those over them in the Lord and take their admonition there can be no edification of believers.
 - 2. Secondly, a right kind of relationship called upon them "**to esteem**" spiritual leaders very highly in love (13). In other words they were suppose to love their leaders for the sake of their work. When folks don't love their spiritual leader, the Lord's work will suffer because of it.
- B. Told them how to have the right kind of relationship with another (13-15).
 - 1. The first thing required for a right relationship with one another was to be at peace among themselves (13).
 - 2. Such a relationship called upon them to "**warn the unruly**" -not to permit or condone everything. An example of those needing to be warned because of unruly or disorderly conduct would be those who had quit their jobs (14). Note 4:11,12.
 - 3. A third requirement for a right kind of relationship with one another called upon them to comfort or "**encourage the feeble-minded**" or more literally the "**faint-hearted**" (14). An example of these would be those sorrowing over loved ones who had died. Note I Thess.4:13,18. Those dispairing over the day of the Lord would also fall into this category (5:2-11).
 - 4. The next thing needed to have a right kind of relationship with one another was "**to support the weak**" (14). This refers to those spiritually unstable and faltering. Those not knowing how to possess their vessel or body in 4:3-7 would fit this situation. Such support was teaching them God's will about this matter.

5. Another thing required if there is going to be a right kind of relationship with one another is patience toward all (14). When folks lack patience they write others off or just don't concern themselves with others.
 6. Finally such a relationship requires following that which is good and not repaying evil for evil (15).
- C. Told them how to have a right kind of relationship with the Lord (16-24)
1. This they would have by being occupied with and obedient to God's will. (16-18)
 - a. It is God's will for us to rejoice despite the circumstance (16). Note Phil.4:4.
 - b. It is God's will for us to pray constantly about all things (17). Note Phil. 4:6; I Tim. 2:8.
 - c. It is God's will for us to be thankful unto Him in every circumstance (18). Note Phil. 4:6; Eph. 5:20; Col.3:15.
 2. Secondly, to have the right kind of relationship with the Lord they needed to be open to God's workings (19-24).
 - a. Being open meant to recognize the Holy Spirit's presence and promptings and not to quench the Spirit's workings (19). Here He is likened to a flame and to extinguish Him is to drown out His leading.
 - b. Being open meant not to despise prophesying (20). They were not to regard these with contempt through whom the Holy Spirit was making God's will known. Many times folks don't have a right relationship with God because they reject what is said by the Holy Spirit through His messengers.
 3. Finally, to have a right relationship with the Lord they needed to be observing and opposed to the devil's workings (21-22).
 - a. This called for a testing or proving of all things and holding on to only what was good in God's sight (21).
 - b. This also called for shunning every appearance of evil (22). Sin is always sin but the forms in which the devil presents it takes on different appearances.
 4. The purpose for being obedient to God's will, open to God's workings and opposed to the devil's working, was that they might be set apart through and through (23). Note this was Paul's prayer that they might be wholly set apart or *through and through* - body, soul and spirit - be preserved blameless unto Christ's coming. Sanctification or being set

apart is not limited to the body but has to do with the soul and spirit as well.

5. The power to have a right kind of relationship is found in the One who called them (24). He is faithful when we are tempted (I Cor. 10:13), when we confess our sins to forgive them (I Jn 1:9), and when we cast our cares upon Him (I Pet. 5:7).

D. Concluded with some remarks that called upon them to practice the right kind of relationship (25-28).

1. His prayer request (25) called for a recognition of those over them. It also pointed out their need for God's power to do God's work.

2. His greeting (26), charge(27), and benediction (28) necessitated a right kind of relationship with one another.