

Lessons From I Thessalonians

Respect Those Laboring Over You

(I Th 5:12-13)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of “Lessons From I Thessalonians.”
 - a. Last week we looked at “Children Of No Surprise.”
 - i. **I Th 5:4-5** “But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. 5 For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.”¹
 - b. This week we are going to look at “Respect Those Laboring Over You.”
 - i. **I Th 5:12-13** “We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, 13 and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.”
3. Paul switches gears.
 - a. After writing about Christ’s second coming he now moves on to some miscellaneous exhortations.
 - i. In other words Paul writes about several things in a short amount of space.
 - b. The first of these exhortations has to do with the Thessalonians responsibilities toward their elders.

I. Respect Those That Labor Among You

- A. Paul asked that the brethren respect those that labor over them
 1. Notice some of the different ways the word respect is translated.
 - i. Recognize NKJV
 - ii. To know KJV & ASV
 - iii. Appreciate NASB95
 - iv. Acknowledge NIV
 - v. Honor TM
 - a. The point is the word means more than just simply to be a mere acquaintance.
 2. Paul makes two powerful points here to the Thessalonians.
 - i. The work of an eldership is quite extensive and as such should be respected.
 - a. Some of their responsibilities are...
 1. Keeping the congregation sound to the doctrine.
 2. Keeping the congregation spiritually fed.
 3. Keeping the congregation safe.
 4. Keeping the congregation growing spiritually.

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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- ii. The work of the eldership is to be amongst the brethren and they should respect them for it.
 - a. They are to be “stinky shepherds.”
 1. They are to be so involved with the congregation they now intimately their sheep.
 3. Brother Parris wrote, “Elders are to be those who “labor,” a word meaning wearisome effort. Elders are not to be men who just stand around and talk about their position; they are to be among the hardest workers in the church.” (Notes on I Thessalonians by Parrish, Eddie pg. 27)
- B. Thus...
1. We too must respect, acknowledge, and honor those who lead this congregation through their hard work and dedication.

II. Respect Those That Are Over You

- A. Paul asked the brethren to respect the elders that were over them.
1. Paul makes some powerful points to the brethren there in Thessalonica.
 - i. These points are found in the word “over” which has a threefold definition.
 - a. It means “to be over, superintend, preside over”(Thayer, J. H. (1889). A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: being Grimm’s Wilke’s Clavis Novi Testamenti. New York: Harper & Brothers.)
 1. To be in charge of.
 - b. It means “to be a protector or guardian; to give aid” (Ibid)
 1. To watch out for the welling being.
 - c. It means “to care for, give attention to” (Ibid)
 1. To pay close attention to with regard to service toward.
- B. Shepherds need the sheep’s respect through submission
1. It is hard if not impossible for shepherds to oversee and lead if the sheep are usurping their authority.
 - i. Disrespect from the fold can come from two different directions.
 - a. It can come if the shepherds have “left the truth.”
 - b. It can come if the sheep have “left the truth.”
- C. Thus...
1. We too must respect those in authority over us with all humility and submission respecting their position.

III. Respect Those That Admonish You

- A. Paul asked the brethren at Thessalonica to respect the elders that admonished them
1. Once again Paul with one single word produces a powerful point.
 - i. Admonish means to warn against one’s dangerous behavior.
 - a. **Ti 1:9-11** “He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it. 10 For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. 11 They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach.”

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- ii. Admonish means to instruct one regarding his/her behavior.
 - a. **Ro 15:14** "I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another."
 - iii. Admonish literally means to "put in mind."
- B. Thus...
- 1. Brethren we have a great responsibility to respect those that fight so hard to keep us on the straight and narrow path.

CONCLUSION

- 1. To the elders that work hard we are to hold them in the highest regard and make their job as easy for them as possible.
 - a. **I Th 5:13** "and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves."
 - b. **He 13:17** "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you."
- 2. Question: Do you respect those that have authority over you?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If not why not?
- 3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**