

# Community Group Study - Winter/Spring 2018

1 Thess 5:13-15

Theme: Gospel Partners Care For One Another

## Introduction to Winter/Spring Study: Gospel Partnership

This semester we're doing a study on "Gospel Partnership" that ties in with our preaching series on Philippians. Paul thanks the church in Philippians for their "partnership in the gospel" (1:5). Today, our relationships in the church are still built on this "gospel partnership." We have explored the foundation of that partnership in the first two studies, we looked at the goal of the partnership (mission) for two studies, and now we're looking at some practical help for relating to one another as gospel partners.

## Study Overview

When we become "gospel partners" we become united in Christ, but we must live out that unity practically. One key way we live out that unity is by caring for one another. But "care" doesn't always look the same way in every situation. Today we'll explore what this can look like.

**Text :** 1 Thessalonians 5:13–15

[13b] Be at peace among yourselves. [14] And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. [15] See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. (ESV)

## Questions

**[Note: For this study, bible questions and application are closely linked so they're all in one category this time]**

1. Paul encourages us toward peace with one another in the family of God. What does peace look like?
2. In verse 14 Paul gives three very different ways we can care for one another. Why doesn't care look the same way in every situation?
3. What does it mean to be the "idle" in verse 14? How are we to help those in that category?
4. What does it mean to be "fainthearted"? How are we to help those in that category?
5. What does it mean to be "weak"? How are we to help those in that category?
6. What does Paul say we must do with all three categories? Why is that important? How would that affect how we understand each of his three exhortations?
7. Why does Paul follow those exhortations with a reminder not to repay evil for evil? Why would Christians need to be reminded of that in dealing with one another?
8. What does it mean to "always seek to do good to one another"? What does this exhortation add to our understanding of how we care for one another?

**Application**

[See above]

**Prayer**

- Spend time praying for anyone in the group that feels like they're in the category of "fainthearted"
- Spend time for anyone feeling "weak" in the group
- Spend time asking God for grace to care for one another
- Spend time asking for God to give us peace