

Relationship Obligations

1Thessalonians 5:12-22

Part of Local Group/Fellowship lessons

Scripture reminds us of responsibility to one another

Also have responsibility to those outside the church

Paul and Timothy helped these brethren get started - **Acts 17:1-9**

Paul closes with practical admonitions regarding their conduct

"Urge" them to "Do": shows importance

Addressed to Christians, not just preachers or elders

All have this responsibility.

Admonish The Unruly

Disorderly, out of the ranks; irregular

Military term describe soldiers not keeping ranks; breaking line

Army ineffective soldiers get out of line, leave ranks - **1Thessalonians 5:14; 2Thessalonians 3:6-13**

Idle or unruly members are to be warned

"Admonish" to put in mind, caution or reprove gently

Important, because soul involved Who is real friend? One who warns person in danger or one who says, "I don't want to offend him; or he might get mad if I tell him

If we understand physical, why not spiritual

If don't agree, we must appreciate his interest in our soul

Many afraid of offending; but not of allowing sin to run its course

Admonition is not gossip - **Galatians 6:1; James 5:19**

We need to speak to one who has been disorderly rather than say nothing or talk to others

Possible to fall - guard against falling - **1Corinthians 10:12; Galatians 5:4**

Allow God to speak to you daily: read, study, meditate

Speak to God daily- prayer will stop sin or sin will stop prayer.

Speak for God daily- we must win souls for Christ

Work for God daily- take advantage of opportunities to do good

Encourage the Fainthearted

Not intellectual - those discouraged downcast, despondent, disheartened

Those who work with the depressed tell us that mankind does not do well alone. We need others in our life to maintain good mental health (spiritual health also) - **Genesis 2:18**

Discouraged: by disappointments, lack of growth in others or self, sin of others or own; general disappointments in life such as death of a loved one, illness, and various hardships

"Encourage" = comfort - **Hebrews 3:12-13; 10:24-25; 1Timothy 4:13**

Paul's letters to Timothy were to encourage him to persevere in the Christian life and in his role as a teacher

Many ways to encourage others: show concern for and confidence in them - by a call, a card, a visit, a passing remark, a small deed word of kindness may help in more ways than we will ever know.

Times we warn unruly, other times comfort the disheartened

Help the Weak

Not physically weak but spiritually weak - reasons for being spiritually weak similar to physically weak - **1Peter 2:2; Hebrews 5:12-14**

Weak must be supported

Not upholding in error or making excuses for them

Correct error and help grow - may mean first principles again

Some haven't had time to grow - so may just need time

Infant not care for self; often new converts are - **Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 15:1; Philippians 2:4**

Be Patient with All

Patience - forbearance, long-suffering; quality of self-restraint in provocation that does not hastily retaliate or promptly punish, involves ideas of continuance or endurance

Essential to salvation - **Hebrews 10:36,38; 12:1; 2Peter 1:6**

Toward ALL men

Not easily discouraged, persevere in helping all

"Patience" in warning unruly

Patient comforting discouraged

Patient helping weak- don't go from strong to weak over night - **2Corinthians 12:12**

We have a responsibility:

Admonish the Unruly

Encourage Fainthearted

Help the Weak

Patient With All

Are we fulfilling our responsibilities in each of these areas?

It takes mature full-grown Christians to shoulder these responsibilities successfully