

sermon notes

May 29, 2022 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Verse By Verse Fellowship
Kingdom Called | "Cultivating Healthy Church Relationships" | 1 Thess 5:12-15

Three Fundamentals of Church Relationships:

1. _____ your leaders (5:12-13)
2. _____ one another (5:14)
3. _____ evil in pursuit of good (5:15)

Five ways to defy evil in pursuit of good:

- 1) _____ quickly; _____ quicker
- 2) _____ your sin and don't make _____
- 3) _____ your relationships at church to _____ sin
- 4) _____ people the benefit of the _____
- 5) _____ Christ often and don't take _____
too serious

Questions for further application of God's Word:

GO DEEPER

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13. Also read Titus 1:5-9. Finish the following statement: Church leaders (elders) should be _____. According to 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, what are some of the duties of a church leader? What are some ways that leaders fail their churches? What are some ways that churches fail to follow their leaders?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15. Why is idleness a problem for Christians? Is it a sin? Why does an idle person need to be admonished? How should idle persons be admonished and by whom?

Paul says "encourage the fainthearted" (5:14). Is faintheartedness a sin? How do we support a fainthearted Christian? List some specific ways that you can encourage other fainthearted believers in the church. To help you with this, think about some ways that you are encouraged by others when you are fainthearted. What are some additional ways that a church might "help the weak" (5:14)?

GET PERSONAL

Read the "Five ways to defy evil in pursuit of good." Why is repentance so important for interpersonal relationships in the church? Why is forgiveness important? Are you quick or slow to repent when you wrong someone? Are you quick or slow to forgive when someone sins against you?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Are you good at owning your own sin or do you make excuses and blame others? Should a church even be concerned with personal sin and holiness? Why? How can the church help individuals pursue holiness? When is it necessary to extend grace to a person stuck in a pattern of sin and when is it necessary to hold a person accountable?

ADVANCED QUESTION

Why is it important to be part of a local church? Since there is potential for relational strife in the church, isn't it best to just avoid church altogether? Why or why not? Read the following articles to help you address this issue:

- 1) "Why We Need the Church" by Jenny Manley:
<https://cbmw.org/women/why-we-need-the-church/>
- 2) "Do You Have to Go to Church to Be a Christian?" by R.C. Sproul:
<https://www.ligonier.org/blog/do-you-have-go-church-be-christian/>