

## 1 Thes. 5:12-24

- I. Practice Christian Virtues in a variety of situations (12-22)
  - A. Honor your leaders and live in peace (12-13)
    - 1. We are asking you to honor your leaders (12-13a)
      - a Brothers, we are asking you: (12a)
      - b Specifically: To respect and value your leaders (12b-13a)
        - 1) To recognize/respect/show honor to: (12b)
          - cf. Rom. 14:6
          - Probably all referring to the same group of people – i.e. Christian leaders/pastors
          - Three different descriptions for the same group of men
        - a) Those working among you
        - b) And those leading you in the Lord
        - c) And those instructing/warning you
      - 2) To value them most highly in love, because of their work (13a)
    - 2. Live in peace among yourselves (13b)
  - B. We are exhorting you to encourage and help one another (14)
    - 1. Brothers, we are exhorting/encouraging you: (14a)
    - 2. Specifically: Encourage and help all (14b-e)
      - a Instruct/warn the unruly idle (14b)
        - Same word “instruct” as v. 12
        - On “unruly idle” see 2 Thes. 3:6, 11
      - b Strengthen the faint-hearted (14c)
        - Literally, the “small in faith”
      - c Have a helpful concern for the weak and helpless (14d)
        - Take a strong interest in, in order to help them
      - d Be forbearing toward all (14e)
  - C. Live Christianly in every situation (15-18a)
    - 1. Don't give others evil, but good (15)
      - a Neg: See to it that no one pays back to anyone evil in return for evil (15a)
      - b Pos: But always pursue the good toward one another and toward all (15b)
    - 2. Always rejoice (16)
    - 3. Constantly pray (17)
    - 4. Give thanks in everything (18)

- D.** It is God's will that you be open to the work of the Spirit with discernment (18b-22)
1. Reason: For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (18b)
  2. Be open to the work of the Spirit, but not to counterfeits (19-22)
    - a Neg: Don't automatically reject the work of the Spirit (19-20)
      - 1) Do not quench/suppress the Spirit (19)
        - i.e. don't resist the Spirit's work in prophecy
        - elaborated by the next command
      - 2) Do not disdainfully reject prophecy (20)
        - Not referring to the general phenomenon of prophecy
        - But specific examples purporting to be prophecy
    - b Pos: Test everything and respond accordingly (21-22)
      - 1) But critically examine everything by testing (21a)
        - Referring to all prophecies
        - Test first by Scripture
        - Test by whether the prophecy points you toward or away from the True God – Deut. 13:1-11
        - Test by fulfillment – Deut. 18:18-22
        - Mature leaders test by Wisdom and Spirit leading
      - 2) Respond accordingly based on the value you find (21b-22)
        - a) Hold fast to the good (21b)
        - b) Keep away from every form of evil (22)
          - In this context every bad/false/untrue prophecy
          - Not "appearance of evil" as in outward perception
          - But every example of evil
          - Same word "abstain" as 4:3 abstain from sexual sin

**II.** Therefore: May God make these things a reality in your life (23-24)

Prayer report

- A.** May God make you holy and blameless for Jesus' coming (23)
1. May this same God of peace sanctify you in every way/completely (23a)
  2. And may your spirit, soul and body be kept completely blameless in the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (23b)
- B.** Reason: God is faithful both to call, and to complete (24)
1. The One Who is calling you is faithful (24a)
    - On God's "call" see 2:12 and 4:7
  2. Therefore: He will also do [it] (24b)