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***LEADERSHIP DURING DIFFICULT DAYS***  
***MINISTERING TO ONE-ANOTHER***  
**1THESSALONIANS 5:12-22**

*But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction,<sup>13</sup> and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.<sup>14</sup> **We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.**<sup>15</sup> See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always;<sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing;<sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.<sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit;<sup>20</sup> do not despise prophetic utterances.<sup>21</sup> But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good;<sup>22</sup> abstain from every form of evil.*

**"PITHY PARADIGM"** *Brethren, these are the reasons why I write so strongly. I want your Christianity to be unmistakable. I want you all to grow really, and to do more than others. Let us all henceforth remember Sardis and Laodicea — let us resolve to be more holy and more bright. Let us bury our idols. Let us put away all strange gods. Let us cast out the old leaven. Let us lay aside every weight and besetting sin. Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of flesh and spirit, and perfect holiness in the fear of God. Let us renew our covenant with our beloved Lord. Let us aim at the highest and best things. Let us resolve by God's blessing to be more holy, and then I know and am persuaded we shall be more useful and more happy. "Consider Your Ways":*  
**J.C. Ryle**

We find ourselves in the closing section of 1 Thessalonians 5 specifically looking at verse 14 which is rich with admonition, meaning and application.

The opening formula, "Now we urge you, brothers," introduces a fresh series of exhortations. The verb "urge" conveys the thought of "entreat" or "request" and denotes persuasion with a sense of authority. Paul is concerned that those members whose actions and attitudes needed attention were effectively dealt with. They are urged to work with various individuals who need help ([1Th 5:14](#)) as well as to promote proper relations with others. ([D Edmond Hiebert -1 Thessalonians Commentary](#))

Having addressed our attitudes toward the leaders over the local assembly in Thessalonica (vv. 12-13), Paul now turns and confronts our attitude toward those within the assembly (v.14).

Whether you realize it or not there are all types of peoples in the local assembly who need biblical direction and instruction. For a healthy local assembly to function to maximum capacity, the members of the body must be healthy. So it is incumbent to each of the members to serve and minister to one another biblically.

The "urge" Paul is giving is the word "*parakaleo*" from "*para*" means side of, alongside, beside. With "*kaleo*" means to call) literally to call one alongside, to call someone to oneself, to call for, to summon. *Parakaleo* can include the idea of giving help or aid but the primary sense in the NT is to urge someone to take decisive corrective action, especially some ethical course of action.

## **1. "ADMONISH THE UNRULY"**

Admonish "*noutheteo*" (remember back in verse 12—"give you instruction") from "*noús*" mind plus "*títhemi*" to place, literally means to place in the mind, training by word and hence to give instruction, to warn or to give notice beforehand especially of danger or evil. The idea is to lay it on the mind or heart of the person, with the stress being on influencing not only the intellect, but also the will, emotions and disposition. The idea is to counsel about avoidance or cessation of an improper course of conduct. They are out of step with the admonition given from the leadership and in need of corrective action.

Fellow believers are to go to them and warn that if their behavior does not change or alter there will be consequences to bear on their unrepentant behavior.

**Galatians 6:2** *Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.*

**Jude 23** *save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.*

**James 5:19-20** *My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.*

## 2. "ENCOURAGE THE FAINTHEARTED"

"Encourage" pictures one coming to another's side to stimulate or comfort. Literally means to speak to someone coming close to his or her side and speak to them in a friendly way. In the NT it means to relate near, encourage, console (to serve as a source of comfort in disappointment, loss, sadness, trouble), comfort. The idea is to speak kindly, soothingly, to comfort or pacify.

"Fainthearted" means puny in extent, degree, number, duration or value. It means literally "small-souled," the little-spirited, the faint-hearted, the despondent, the feeble-minded, fretful, discouraged or worried. The idea is that this is a description of the person who feels their resources are too small for a given situation and so they become despondent or discouraged.

**1 Corinthians 12:14-26** *For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. If they were all one member, where would the body be? But now there are many members, but one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be*

*weaker are necessary; and those members of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable, whereas our more presentable members have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.*

Hiebert adds that... They are members who have become discouraged for some reason, perhaps because of adverse circumstances or because of their deep consciousness of their own sinfulness, causing them to despair of being able to live the Christian life. These timid, discouraged individuals needed to be encouraged, cheered up, stimulated, and helped along. They did not need to be rebuked and warned like the idle, but rather needed to be encouraged through the use of helpful words to continue the battle for the Lord. Let such souls, who instinctively fear the worst, learn to take courage from the gentle Lord who would not break the bruised reed or quench the smoking flax.

**Matthew 12:20** *"A BATTERED REED HE WILL NOT BREAK OFF, AND A SMOLDERING WICK HE WILL NOT PUT OUT, UNTIL HE LEADS JUSTICE TO VICTORY.*

Christ came to restore and build up broken people not to break and destroy them. He is tender and compassionate to the lowly; He came *to revive the heart of the contrite*—Isaiah 57:15

## 3. HELP THE WEAK

## 4. PATIENCE WITH EVERYONE

### LEGISLATIVE BIBLE STUDY

Blatt Rm. 317—Wednesday, 8:30am

Prayer Request-[jeff.lingerfelt@capitolcom.org](mailto:jeff.lingerfelt@capitolcom.org)