

CHRISTIAN CONDUCT – PART 4 – CONCERNING THE SPIRIT
AND THE WORD

--1st THESSALONIANS 5:19-22--

INTRODUCTION:

Over the past several weeks we have been looking at Paul's concluding section in which he has been exhorting the Thessalonians on matters of Christian conduct. How they are to conduct themselves and the responsibilities they have in the different relationships that they have in the community of the church. Paul has discussed the relationship and responsibilities between the leaders and the congregation of the church. He has looked at the relationship between the members of the church, specifically what were the responsibilities towards those struggling in the church. Paul then exhorted the Thessalonians concerning their relationship with the Chief Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ. This morning we will look at Paul's final exhortations to the church, after that he will pray for the church and make his concluding remarks and his salutation. Paul's exhortations that we will look at this morning concern the Holy Spirit and God's Word.

I. DO NOT QUENCH THE SPIRIT (1st Thessalonians 5:19)

- a. Some teach that in verse nineteen Paul was warning the Thessalonian believers not to _____ the use of the gifts of prophecy and the gift of tongues in their church services.
- b. I do not believe these arguments are _____ for two reasons.
 - i. First, there is nothing in these verses to show that they are any _____ than his earlier exhortations.
 - ii. Second, if the Thessalonian church had been stifling the miraculous gifts, Paul would have strongly _____ them. (1st Corinthians 12-14)
- c. To truly understand and grasp this exhortation's true application you must remember the _____ of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers.

- d. It is the process of progressive _____ by the Holy Spirit that Paul exhorted the Thessalonians not to quench.
- e. The Lord Jesus more than once promised to send the Holy Spirit as a _____ to all believers.
- f. The sanctification process is made up of a number of acts that _____ with the Holy Spirit.
 - i. First, the Holy Spirit _____ the Word of God. (1st Corinthians 2:10)
 - ii. Second, our closeness or _____ with God is brought about by the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:15-16)
 - iii. The third act of the Holy Spirit is to _____ the Lord Jesus Christ to believers and to make them more like Him. (2nd Corinthians 3:18)
 - iv. Fourth, it is the work of the Holy Spirit to _____ believers know God's will. (Ezekiel 36:27; Psalm 143:10)
 - v. Fifth, the inward, supernatural _____ that helps us stay on the path of sanctification is from the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 3:16)
 - g. Do not _____ the Holy Spirit as He seeks to sanctify you and bring you into conformity with the image of the Lord Jesus Christ.

II. DO NOT DESPISE THE WORD OF GOD (1st Thess. 5:20)

- a. No words of man are _____ to the Word of God, God's Word is infinitely superior. (Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4)
- b. The apostles and their companions received, spoke, and _____ the text of the New Testament. (Acts 11:27-30; 1st Corinthians 14:3)
- c. In contrast to those who may have despised prophetic utterances, Paul's _____ for the Word of God was rooted in His love for God and for His Word. (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)

III. BE DISCERNING (1st Thessalonians 5:21-22)

- a. Paul's final exhortation is for the Thessalonians to be _____.

- b. Once they had examined everything, they were to hold fast to that which is _____.

CONCLUSION:

As we come to the close of Paul's exhortations on Christian conduct, we have learned this morning that we need to completely yield to the Holy Spirit as He does His sanctifying work in us conforming us to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ. Yielding to Him will give us an appreciation for God's Word as the Holy Spirit uses it to progressively sanctify us. Because of our love and respect of God's Word and its work in our lives we will examine everything by its standards. When we do these things, we find ourselves fulfilling three more responsibilities in our relationship to the Chief Shepherd, the Lord Jesus, we honor His Spirit, we obey His Word, and we practice spiritual discernment in everything.