

CHRISTIAN CONDUCT – PART 2 – CARING FOR ONE
ANOTHER (1st Thessalonians 5:14-15)

INTRODUCTION:

Last week we began the final section of Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians and in this final section we find a series of exhortations that Paul gives concerning how we are to conduct ourselves in the community of the church and the relationships that exist in that community. Last week we looked at the relationship between the shepherd and the flock under his care.

This morning we will be looking at two more verses that relate to the relationship that exists between the members of the church, and how we are to relate to the other sheep in our community and how we are to deal with sheep who are struggling within the flock.

- I. ADMONISH THE UNRULY (1 Thessalonians 4:14a)
 - a. Paul kicks off this set of exhortations with a _____ that the believers in Thessalonica carry out what he has to say so that they can truly be the church Christ intended them to be.
 - b. The first struggling sheep that Paul identifies is the _____ sheep.
 - c. The unruly were not in line with the rest of the _____ and the direction it was going.
 - d. Paul recognized that these unruly sheep had to be helped and his methodology for helping them was for another believer to come alongside them and _____ them. (Acts 20:31)
- II. ENCOURAGE THE FAINTHEARTED (1 Thessalonians 5:14b)
 - a. Paul's second group of spiritually needy sheep are the _____.
 - b. Some were fainthearted because they did not deal well with _____, they did not want to do anything that might lead to suffering.
 - c. Paul's remedy for those who are fainthearted, for the worried is again for a confident sheep to come alongside and speak words of comfort and consolation, to _____ them.

- III. HELP THE WEAK (1st Thessalonians 5:14c)
 - a. The next spiritual needy sheep that Paul identifies is the _____ sheep. (1 Corinthians 8:7)
 - b. This term "weak" is in reference to susceptibility to sin and refers to believers who _____ with abandoning sin and obeying God's Word.
 - c. Paul urged the _____ Thessalonians to help the weak. (Galatians 6:1-2)
- IV. BE PATIENT WITH EVERYONE (1st Thessalonians 5:14d)
 - d. It is easy for healthy, growing, mature believers to become frustrated, discouraged, irritated with the spiritually _____ sheep.
 - e. The Greek word translated "_____" is a word that means to be longsuffering or to forbear. (1 Timothy 1:16; Ephesians 4:1-3)
 - f. We have an example in the Gospels that summarizes for us the _____ to which Christians ought to extend forgiving patience to others. (Matthew 18:21-22)
- V. DO GOOD TO THOSE WHO DO EVIL (1 Thessalonians 5:15)
 - g. As believers we expect to be disappointed by how the world reacts to us or how they treat us, but the greater disappointment comes when those within the _____ hurt us by doing evil toward us.
 - h. Paul exhorted the Thessalonian believers on how they were to _____ to such evil from others in the church. (Romans 12:19)
 - i. Paul goes on to give the _____ way in which we respond to those who sin against us. (Romans 12:20-21)
 - j. Paul wanted the Thessalonians to respond to evil with genuine acts of _____.

CONCLUSION:

A healthy church, a healthy flock is characterized by growth

in faith, love, and purity. It is seen in a steady progression toward the likeness of Christ. But spiritual needy and problem sheep within the flock can and do impede the church's growth and its progress to Christ's likeness. This means that the healthy sheep must lovingly, patiently, but truthfully deal with the difficult sheep to get the church back on track in growing in faith and becoming more Christ-like. Paul clearly taught in this passage that the key to doing this is not finding some clever strategy to bypass the troubles, but addressing the issues directly, as shepherds and sheep alike admonish the unruly, encouraging the fainthearted, upholding and supporting the weak, patiently bearing with the wearisome, and doing good to those who do evil toward us. Paul's strategy is simple, but if we want a healthy flock then we must work together to carry out his exhortations.