

1 Thessalonians 5:12-15 – Final Instructions.

I. Love and respect leaders (12-13)

Christians are to **recognize** their leaders, and leaders are described in three ways.

They labor – the description of a pastoral/spiritual leadership requires work, lots of work. Teaching, praying, counseling, officiating weddings, funerals, dedications...administrative duties...

Over see you - Leaders are providing leadership, as a shepherd is **over** the sheep; towards Christ and His will.

They admonish you - “to caution or to reprove gently; to warn.”

We don't deserve esteem and love because of our title, but because of our labor on behalf of God.

Acts 20:28 - *“Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*

Hebrews 13:17 - *Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.*

II. Live in Peace (13)

Christians should live far off from conflicts and arguments.

Romans 12:18 - *If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.*

Ephesians 4:1-3 - *I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*

III. Warn the Unruly (14).

So if someone is **unruly (out of order/insubordinate)**, like a soldier who marches out of step, the duty of the Christian is to **warn/caution** them.

2 Thessalonians 3:6 - *But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who*

walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he[fn] received from us.

Titus 3:10-11 - *Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.*

IV. Comfort the fainthearted.

The **fainthearted/feeble minded** are those who, literally, are *small-souled*. By nature or experience they tend to be timid and lack courage.

Psalms 71:21 - *You shall increase my greatness, And comfort me on every side.*

Philippians 2:1-2 - *Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.*

V. Uphold the weak

Those who are unable to walk on their own must be upheld and supported.

Isaiah 40:29 - *He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength.*

Romans 15:1 - *We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves.*

VI. Be patient with all:

This means to be slow to anger, slow to punish.

Ecclesiastes 7:8 - *The end of a thing is better than its beginning; The patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.*

2 Timothy 2:24 - *And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,*