

**“Church Family 2026”
1 Thessalonians 5:12-28
New Year’s Message December 28, 2025**

Ephesians 5:15-16

1 Thessalonians “The Authentic Christian”

“Brethren” 27 times in 1, 2 Thessalonians.

Paul used it **60 times** in his letters.

Thought Of Our Passage: “Christ-Like Character Is Revealed Through Honoring Leaders, Caring For Others, And Worshiping In The Truth.”

- 1. Verses 12-13 Honor Your Leaders:**
- 2. Verses 14-16 Care For Others:**
- 3. Verses 17-28 Worshiping In Truth:**

1. Verses 12-13 Honor Your Leaders:

1 Thessalonians 5:12 But

Context - Paul had spoken of **“The Day of The Lord”**

When God steps in, He judges the unrighteous and rewards the righteous. Believers will not be taken by surprise.

we request of you, *“We ask and beg you”*

brethren,

The family of God which is made up of all true believers

Paul Requests Four Changes From The Congregation:

**1. Verse 12 Believers Appreciate Hardworking Church Leaders:
that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you,**

Paul is speaking about our spiritual leaders.

Those that are serving us in the Lord!

you appreciate

KJV's word **“Know”**

Idea of “looking at, to really examine, to interview, to find out.”

“to have regard for one, cherish, pay attention to”

labor

“To grow weary, tired, exhausted with toil under burdens or with wearisome effort, bodily labor.”

among you,

Referring to the pastors, elders, deacons, and Bible study leaders

2. Verse 12 Believers Appreciate Leaders Who Oversee And Instruct You: and have charge over you in the Lord

The position of a church leader is ordained by God!

Shepard – Feed/Protect

1 Peter 5:2-4 (God will reward the shepherd)

and give you instruction, James 3:1

3. Verse 13 Believers Are To Esteem And Love Church Leaders: esteem them

"regard, to separate, to be over" Elevate to a place with honor!

very highly in love because of their work.

Love them very much for the (eternal work) that they are rendering to the Lord and for His flock.

4. Verse 13 Believers Live In Peace With Church Leaders: Live in peace with one another.

Wrong attitudes towards their church leaders.

2. Verses 14-16 Care For Others:

1 Thessalonians 5:14

Four Groups Within The Fellowship Needing TLC:

1. The Unruly: We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly,

Notice again that Paul is not commanding but is **"urging you,"** the believers, not the pastors.

The pastor's calling is to teach the people to do the work.

Ephesians 4:11-12

admonish *"warn" the unruly, "disorderly, out of ranks (used of soldiers) deviating from the prescribed order or rule"*

Used in Greek society of those "who did not show up for work."

(Believers Are To Counsel, Warn, Not Just Pastors)

2. The Quitters: encourage – *"to speak to, address one, through incentive, or to calm and console"* **the fainthearted**, literally Greek word is *"little-souled, fainthearted."* These are the quitters in the church family.

We must teach the "little-souled"

That the trials of life will help to enlarge them and make them stronger in the faith.

3. The Weak: help - *"to hold up, hold on firmly, cleave to"*
the weak, *"to be without strength, to be weak, and feeble"*

4. Be Patient With All: be patient with all men.

Paul ends with an all-inclusive statement that says, "be patient with all men." Warren Weirsbe, "It's always too soon to quit!"

1 Thessalonians 5:15 Believers' Motives:

See that no one repays another with evil for evil, Romans 12:17-19

and for all people. (Wanting God to bless others)

Believers' Be Joyful: 1 Thessalonians 5:16 Rejoice always; Nehemiah 8:10 for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

3. Verses 17-28 Worshiping In Truth:

Five Point Description of How To Walk In Truth As Worshippers:

1. Verse 17 Worship And Prayer:

1 Thessalonians 5:17

pray without ceasing - *"constantly recurring prayer"*

It's an attitude of prayer. **(Always in touch with God through prayer!)**

2. Verse 18 Worship And Praise: 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Worship - *is a response to who God is.*

Praise - *is a response to what God does.*

in everything give thanks;

for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:28

3. Verses 19-21 Worship And The Word:

1 Thessalonians 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit;

quench – metaphor *"to suppress, stifle the divine influence of God"*

How Can We Quench The Spirit? –

1 Thessalonians 5:20 do not despise prophetic utterances.

The word **despise** – *"to think little of, or contemptible"*

prophetic utterances,

This refers to the Word of God that in the OT, and NT was more foretelling and later became more forthtelling.

Worship that ignores the Bible (Revelation) is not spiritual!

1 Thessalonians 5:21 But examine everything carefully;

Word being taught

hold fast to that which is good;

4. Verses 22-24 Worship And Godliness: 1 Thessalonians 5:22 abstain from every form of evil. This word **form** – *“the external or outward appearance, form figure, shape”*

The purpose of worship is that we might become more like Christ in character and conduct.

Negative - abstain from every form of evil.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Positive - Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely;

The term **sanctify** – *“to separate from profane things and dedicate to God, to purify internally by renewing of the soul.”*

and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete,

Note that as human beings, we are triune beings, **spirit, soul, and body.**

without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus lives in us.

1 Thessalonians 5:24 What a great promise we have in God.

That what God starts God finishes. Philippians 1:6; 2 Timothy 2:13

5. Verses 25-28 Worship And Fellowship:

1 Thessalonians 5:25 Brethren, pray for us.

Here is the apostle wanting the prayers=

1 Thessalonians 5:26 (Men kissed men, women, women)

1 Thessalonians 5:27 I adjure – “to force to take an oath, to administer an oath” you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brethren.

1 Thessalonians 5:28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Application: “Church Family 2026”

- 1. Make The Church Calendar Your Calendar!**
- 2. Get A Good night’s Rest –**
- 3. Prepare For Sundays/Wednesdays -**
- 4. Give Full Attention To The Word When Attending The Services –**
- 5. Application.** Not how I feel, but how I act that really matters.
- 6. Those Attending 6 Months or Longer Are Privileged To Serve -**
- 7. Pray For The Pastors and Wives, Staff, Leadership, Services, Ministries, Preparation time for study. Delivery of the Word.**
- 8. Pray for the protection of God.** Leadership is always under attack.