

☞ 10 Commands for the Church

Review **Pictures; Purposes; Practices...**

☞ 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

In 1 Thessalonians Paul deals a lot with the Second Coming of Christ. Apparently, some in Thessalonica were concerned that they had missed it. As well, some others were so focused on the Second Coming that all they did was watch for his return. Paul encouraged them that they hadn't missed it, but that they should keep themselves busy while they wait. In chapter 5 we find some concluding remarks with instructions that are still valid for us today...

1. ☞ **Respect Leaders** v. 12-13

12 Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over ☞ you in the Lord and who admonish you. **13** Hold them in the **highest regard** in love because of their work.

Pastors, Board, Directors, Small Group Leaders... Respect at least the office... Even if unrespectable, the Bible says show respect.

David with King Saul

Harry S. Truman received a lavender envelope with a regal wax seal and flowing purple ribbons. Opening it, the President found a letter from King Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia, whose salutation began, "Your Magnificence." "Your Magnificence," Truman repeated, laughing. "I like that. I don't know what you guys call me when I'm not here, but it's okay if you refer to me from now on as 'His Magnificence.'"

Hebrews 13:17

☞ **Obey your leaders** and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

My personal experience working for others

We'll do our best to earn it.

2. ☞ **Live in Peace** v. 13

13 Live in peace with each other.

Peace rules the day when Christ rules the mind.

Ephesians 4:3

☞ **Make every effort to keep the unity** of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Psalms 133:1

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!

Galatians 5:14-15

☞ The entire law is summed up in a single command: "**Love your neighbor as yourself.**"

*To dwell above with saints we love,
That will be grace and glory.
To live below with saints we know;
That's another story!*

--Vesta Kelly... Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look at what they can do when they stick together.

3. ☞ **Be Active** v. 14

14 And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak

Ephesians 4:11-12

☞ ...to prepare God's people for **works of service**, so that the body of Christ may be built up

Philemon 6

☞ I pray that you may be active in **sharing your faith**, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.

James 2:17

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

The Roman aqueduct at Segovia, Spain was built in 109 A.D. For eighteen hundred years, it carried cool water from the mountains to the hot and thirsty city. Nearly sixty generations of men drank from its flow. Then a more recent generation decided to preserve it as a museum piece. So, they laid modern iron pipes and gave the ancient bricks and mortar a reverent rest. And the aqueduct began to fall apart. The sun beating on the dry mortar caused it to crumble. The bricks and stone sagged and threatened to fall. What ages of service could not destroy idleness disintegrated.

It is better to wear out than to rust out.

4. ☞ **Be Patient** v. 14

14 be patient with everyone.

= Long suffering – suffer a long time...

Don't gripe immediately if someone bugs you; be patient.

☞ **"Grin and bear it"**

Ephesians 4:2

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

☞ **Put up with each other.**

Perhaps the most important trip you will ever make is going the second mile.

The great New England preacher Phillips Brooks was noted for his poise and quiet manner. At times, however, even he suffered moments of frustration and irritability. One day a friend saw him feverishly pacing the floor like a caged lion. "What's the trouble, Mr. Brooks?" he asked. "The trouble is that I'm in a hurry, but God isn't!" Haven't we felt the same way many times?

5. ☞ **Be Kind** v. 15

15 Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.

"The Golden Rule" - Luke 6:31

Mamie Adams always went to a branch post office in her town because the postal employees there were friendly. She went there to buy stamps just before Christmas one year and the lines were particularly long. Someone pointed out that there was no need to wait in line because there was a stamp machine in the lobby. "I know," said Mamie, 'but the machine won't ask me about my arthritis.'

Ephesians 4:29, 32

☞ Do not let any **unwholesome talk** come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for **building others up** according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

-- George Washington Carver... How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these.

6. ☞ **Be Joyful** v. 16

16 Be joyful always;

Philippians 4:4

☞ **Rejoice** in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

☞ = calmly happy; **cheerful**

Accentuate the positive. Is there a cloud in every silver lining or a silver lining on every cloud?

Nehemiah 8:10

...the joy of the LORD is your strength." (Song)

"if you're happy & you know it clap your hands..."

"If you're saved & you know it say amen..."

"If you're saved & you're happy, notify your face!"

7. ☞ **Pray** v. 17

17 pray continually;

Continually = without interruption; permanently

"7 days without prayer makes one weak"

--Bill Hybels... If the request is wrong, God says, "No." If the timing is wrong, God says, "Slow." If you are wrong, God says, "Grow." But if the request is right, the timing is right and you are right, God says, "Go!"

☞ *Our strength comes from him. Pray simply to **connect with him**.*

When Robert Louis Stevenson was a boy he once remarked to his mother, "Momma, you can't be good without praying." "How do you know, Robert?" she asked. "Because I've tried!"

Ephesians 6:18

☞ And **pray in the Spirit** on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

James 5:16...

☞ Therefore confess your sins to each other and **pray for each other** so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. 17 Elijah was a man just like us...

8. ☞ **Be Thankful** v. 18

18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

= attitude of gratitude

It's the antidote to complaining and bitterness. Ever catch yourself being grumpy and didn't even like it about yourself?

1 Chronicles 29:14

Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.

☞ **"Count your Blessings"**

Psalm 103:2-5

☞ Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not **all his benefits**— 3 who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, 5 who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Praying and giving thanks at mealtime...

Thanks opens the door (enter his gates...) It changes your focus from your gloominess, to his goodness.

9. ☞ **Keep the Fire** v. 19-21

19 Do not put out the Spirit's fire; **20** do not treat prophecies with contempt. **21** Test everything. Hold on to the good.

1 John 4:1-3

Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God.

Keep the fire... How do you keep a campfire raging?

☞ **Stoke it; add to it**

Ephesians 5:18

☞ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, **be filled with the Spirit.**

Galatians 5:22-23

☞ But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control.

10. ☞ **Avoid Evil** v. 22

22 Avoid every kind of evil.

1 John 2:15

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Colossians 3:5-9

☞ **Put to death**, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. 7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8 But now ☞ you must **rid yourselves** of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices

--Jerry Bridges... It is time for us Christians, to face up to our responsibility for holiness. Too often we say we are "defeated" by this or that sin. No, we are not defeated; we are simply disobedient. It might be well if we stopped using the terms victory and defeat to describe our progress in holiness. Rather we should use the terms obedience and disobedience.

If you want to smell like a rose, stay out of the barnyard.

Galatians 5:24-25

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and ☞ desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us **keep in step with the Spirit**.

More simply... Keep out of your life all that will keep Christ out of your mind.

Conclusion

☞ We are the Church. Let's follow the commands for us...

1. **Respect leaders**
2. **Live in peace**
3. **Be active**
4. **Be patient**
5. **Be kind**
6. **Be joyful**
7. **Pray continually**
8. **Be thankful**
9. **Keep the fire**
10. **Avoid evil**