

EXHORTATIONS CONCERNING SPECIFIC NEEDS

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

Final section: specific exhortations Paul wants us to apply in our lives.

CONCERNING ELDERS 5:12-13

First he instructs us concerning our attitude toward the elders.

They are to have authority over the church and to admonish those who walk improperly.

The church is to respect them as leaders, appointed by God to direct His church.

Their authority 5:12a

Their correction 5:12b

Their respect 5:13

CONCERNING OTHER BRETHREN 5:14-15

Paul instructs us concerning our relationship with one another.

We are to admonish the lazy, encourage the discouraged, support the weak, be patient with everyone, seek vengeance against no one, and attempt to show kindness to all.

Warning for the lazy 5:14a

Encouragement for the discouraged 5:14b

Support for the weak 5:14c

Patience with everyone 5:14d

Vengeance against no one 5:15a

Kindness for everyone 5:15b

CONCERNING THE INDIVIDUAL 5:16-22

Paul instructs us concerning our own personal lives.

Our lives are to be characterized by an attitude of praise and desire for fellowship with God.

Continual joy 5:16 We should rejoice continually.

Continual prayer 5:17 Pray without ceasing.

Continual thanksgiving 5:18

Give thanks in all circumstances.

Not extinguishing the Spirit 5:19

Stop extinguishing the Spirit's ministry in the church.

Not discrediting prophecies 5:20

Don't make light of the prophecies.

Continual evaluation of good and evil 5:21-22

Evaluate everything and cling to that which is good.

What is evil should be avoided.

SUMMARY 5:23

Let God do His work of sanctifying us in every area of our lives.

SOURCE OF ABILITY 5:24

The power for this kind of transformation can never come from personal efforts, nor from rules and regulations.

We will fulfill this only as God provides us with the power and ability.

CONCLUDING PERSONAL NOTES 5:25-28

Paul concludes the letter with some personal notes.

Greeting is sent to the brethren, with a charge to read letter to the church.

The letter ends with a benediction.