

Four Biblical Obligations To Others

**1Thessalonians 5:14 - “Now we exhort
you, brethren, warn those who are
unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold
the weak, be patient with all.”**

Part One

Background

- Paul's experiences at Thessalonica: some success and much opposition.
 - Acts 17:1-6 - “Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. 2 Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, ‘This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ.’ 4 And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas. 5 But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. 6 But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, ‘These who have turned the world upside down have come here too.’”

Background

- The church was strong.

- 1Thes. 1:5-8 - “For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake. And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.”

Background

- Paul had a good relationship with them.
 - 1Thes. 3:6-7 - “But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always have good remembrance of us, greatly desiring to see us, as we also to see you -- therefore, brethren, in all our affliction and distress we were comforted concerning you by your faith.”

Background

- Paul taught in the book:
 - The second coming of Christ,
 - The future of those Christians who had already died,
 - Not to fall back into their former ways,
 - Encourages them to persevere in their persecution,
 - In chapter five, he continues his discussion about the second coming of Christ and closes with practical admonitions.

Warn Those Who Are Unruly

- Unruly - “disorderly, out of the ranks, (often of soldiers); irregular, inordinate from the prescribed order of rule.” (Thayer)
 - Originally a military term expressing the idea of soldiers who would not keep their ranks, but would break out of line.
 - The same word is used in 2Thes. 3:6 where they were told to withdraw from the disorderly.
 - Used to refer to Christians who do not keep the ranks, are neglectful of duty, are disorderly, or break out of God's prescribed order.
 - “Warn” comes from a word which is also found in verse 12 and is translated “admonish.”

Warn Those Who Are Unruly

- Gal. 6:1 - “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.”
- James 5:19 - “Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.”
- Prayer will stop sin, or else sin will stop prayer.

Comfort The Fainthearted

- Does not refer to those who are intellectually disadvantaged. (KJV - “feeble-minded”)
 - NKJV, ASV, NASB - “encourage the fainthearted.”
 - Refers to the discouraged, downcast, despondent, disheartened, dispirited.
- Every saint, from the strongest elder to the newest convert, needs to be encouraged from time to time.

Comfort The Fainthearted

- “The human being is the only species that can’t survive alone. The human needs another human being; otherwise he will die. A telephone call to a depressed person can save a life. An occasional word, a ten-minute visit, can be more effective than twenty-four hours of nursing care. You can buy nursing care. You can’t buy love.” *(Dr. Leonard Crammer, psychiatrist who specialized in treating depression wrote, DSM 3185)*

Comfort The Fainthearted

- Exhort is a similar word meaning a sincere urging which encourages the right to continue in the right and admonishes those who need to improve.
- Heb. 3:12-13 - “Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; 13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called Today, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”
- Luke 3:18 - “And with many other exhortations he preached to the people.”

Comfort The Fainthearted

- Acts 20:2 - “Now when he had gone over that region and encouraged them with many words, he came to Greece.”
- 1Tim. 4:13 - “Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.”
- Heb. 10:25 - “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Ways To Encourage Others

- By expressing concern for them or confidence in them, by calling, a card, a personal visit, a passing remark.
- By pointing toward faithful examples.
- By reminding what God has given.

Ways To Encourage Others

- James 1:17 - “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”
- Eph. 1:3 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.”

Ways To Encourage Others

- John 3:16 - “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
- Gal. 6:9 - “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”