

May 26, 2019

Pastor Steve Hardy

Don't Wait until the Pastor Gets Home!

1 Thessalonians 5:14-15

You may have heard these words from mom, wanting to emphasize the seriousness of a committed offense: *"Just wait until your Father gets home!"* Truth be told, most of us would prefer to defer responsibility for admonishment to someone else—in the church, isn't that the elders' responsibility? No, we are all given responsibility toward one another!

I. WARN or teach the lazy or undisciplined.

II. COMFORT or encourage the discouraged.

III. HELP or be loyal to the weak.

IV. BE PATIENT with everyone.

V. STOP retribution.

VI. SEEK GOOD for both Christian and non-Christian.

Our mission as a church is to call people to follow Jesus and become like him. That involves a growth process including Discovery, Discipline, Deployment, ultimately reaching Destiny. But it takes patient, persistent prodding—and who is to do that? All of us, we are responsible for one another. That is the body of Christ.



When God asked Cain where Abel was, Cain famously (and dishonestly) replied, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?"

(Genesis 4:9) He was disclaiming responsibility for his brother's whereabouts, when in fact he was totally responsible! 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15 basically says we have a responsibility as fellow believers toward one another. How

does this apply in the various relationships between members of the family? Are you willing recipients when warning, or teaching, or encouragement are needed?

For Further Study, Thought, and Discussion:

1. Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12. How does laziness negatively impact our life and testimony, and especially the way we "ought to walk and to please God" (1 Thessalonians 4:1)? What was one way Paul sought to teach against idleness as indicated in 2 Thess. 3:7-9?
2. What do those who are discouraged or weak need? Have you ever been inclined to avoid someone who is often "down" or needy? Why, and what responsibilities are we given here reminding us avoidance is not an option for those who want to be like Jesus?
3. "Be patient" might literally be translated be "slow to anger". Are there certain things people do that "set you off" easily? What might you do to discipline this out of your life? When Paul says "with everyone", do you really think he means "everyone"?
4. Why is "evil for evil" problematic and contrary to the ways of Christ? Does this mean evil should never have negative consequences? What is the right response when we experience "evil" treatment?
5. The contrast to returning evil for evil is a commitment to "do good" to all. What are some of the results if we return good for evil, such as in Matthew 5:44-45; Proverbs 25:21-22; Romans 12:19-21?

NEXT WEEK: Come prepared to remember Christ's death for us. Message is "Handling Life," 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.