

Unity Requires Accountability

Proclamation Life Groups; 2 Thessalonians 3:1-16; Week of Sunday, November 27, 2016; Steve Thiel

Sermon Theme – True unity in the gospel, which is grounded in the hope of Christ’s 2nd coming, requires each individual member to pull their own weight, not be a burden, and hold one another accountable to biblical faithfulness. Therefore, unity requires accountability.

I. Foundation For Unity – Read 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

- A. What does Paul ask the Thessalonians to pray for on his behalf (vv.1-2)?

- B. According to verses 3-5, why does Paul have confidence in the Thessalonians?
What reasons does Paul give for ultimately putting his trust and confidence in the Lord?

- C. What do you think it means to “*direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ*” (v.5)? Do you think that you’re doing that on a regular basis? Why or why not?

II. Instructions For Unity – Read 2 Thessalonians 3:6-18

- A. List all the commands that Paul gives to the faithful brothers and sisters in the church?

- B. In what ways has Paul served as an example of godliness? How does this promote unity?

- C. What command does Paul give to the idle and busybodies in the church (vv.10-12)?

- D. How should the believers respond to those who continue to walk in idleness (vv.13-15)?

III. Proclamation Called To Unity – Read Matthew 18:15-17

- A. List examples of appropriate and inappropriate times to be a burden on the church?

- B. After reading 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12, do you feel like the idle in Thessalonica are being treated in a way that is consistent with Matthew 18:15-17? Why or why not?

- C. In your own words, how would you define the purpose of church discipline? How does the process listed in Matthew 18:15-17 exemplify a desire for repentance and restoration?

- D. What are some things that you can do to be more accountable to others in the church?
In what ways would you like to grow in holding others accountable for the sake of unity?