

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
Sermon Study Equipping Class

2 Thessalonians 3:14-15

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15.

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

<sup>14</sup> If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter,  
take special note of that person  
and  
do not associate with him,  
so that he will be put to shame.

<sup>15</sup> Yet  
do not regard him as an enemy,  
but  
admonish him as a brother.

1. What instruction(s) is Paul referring to? Skim the previous text of this letter as needed.
2. What is involved in taking “special note” of someone? Do you think this is a command for individuals or the congregation corporately, considering 1:1?
3. Why are they not to associate with this person? Was it a sin for that person to ignore the instruction(s) given or was that just a preference from Paul?

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4. Are believers to have enemies? See Luke 6:27, Acts 13:8-10, Phil 3:17-18, etc.
  
5. What does it mean to “admonish” someone? What does it involve? Also see Romans 15:14, Colossians 1:28, 3:16.
  
6. Since only male nouns are used in this passage, does this apply only to men? Why or why not?

❖ Day 2

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 again.

7. Why do you think Paul references the teaching only “in this letter” and not his teaching as a whole (letters to other churches). Does this include his previous letter to this church?
  
8. Does this command “do not associate with” apply only to the commands in this letter or any other sin a believer might be involved in? Why or why not? See Matt 18:15-17, Luke 17:3-4, 1 John 5:16.
  
9. To what extent are they not to associate with this person?

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10. Why do you think Paul goes to the extreme of warning them not to treat him as an enemy? How might some be tempted to treat a person when commanded not to associate with that person, even someone in their congregation?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. In what instances would bringing shame to a person be inappropriate, or even sinful? In what instances could it be good and spiritually healthy?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. How are believers to treat enemies? See Matt 5:44, Luke 6:35.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
13. Can there ever be “enemies” within the congregation? See Phil 3:17-19, James 4:4.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
14. What do you think Paul wanted the result to be following the progression of his instructions in these verses? What does vs. 16 indicate about this?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
15. Are these instructions to be viewed as church discipline, such as described in Matthew 18:15-17. Why or why not? If not, could it progress to that point?

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16. What would need to happen in the heart and life of this brother being admonished to be reconciled to the congregation?

❖ Day 3

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 again.

17. Considering this letter was originally written to a specific local congregation (1:1), what do you think Paul specifically intended by “do not associate” with this person? What limitations do you think this might have considering their commitment together as believers, as a local church?

18. Is there anyone within the local church you choose to not associate with? If so, why? What about any believers outside your congregation? What Biblical passages justify your reasons?

19. With what demeanor should admonishment take place? See 1 Thessalonians 5:14, Galatians 6:1, Colossians 1:28, 3:16

20. How specifically can you apply this passage in your own life?

21. Summarize this passage in 21 words or less.

In preparation for Sunday, pray that we would rightly understand this passage and its application. Ask the Lord for continued unity among this congregation, sacrificial displays of love, repentance of sin, and perseverance in the midst of a crooked and depraved culture, that the gospel will be displayed among us.