



A study of 1 Thessalonians 5

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

Today's Message: Respecting God's
Workers- Encouraging Leaders

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 (NIV); *Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. 13 Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.*

The work that church leaders do is hard work, taxing physically and emotionally. They are doing this work for the Lord and on behalf of the church so Paul says they are due some respect for being the ones that carry the heaviest load.

Paul's major idea here is that the work of the church is most important and that any lack of personal respect to leaders needs to be corrected so that the presentation of the Gospel is not hindered.

Hebrews 13:17 tells us to; *Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.*

Never take our leaders for granted, it is dangerous when a church family does so. Taking people for granted invites disillusionment.

Here's the point; there are no perfect churches. Pastors, elders, leaders will not be perfect. Mixed with imperfection and the fact that ministry is hard work often leads to weariness. Weariness not in the work of the Lord but in the work itself, the physical, emotional, stressful aspects of "church work" which is why encouragement so necessary.

Do not compare. And, whatever you do, do not compete with other churches. They aren't our competition. They are on our team and we are, together, competing against the Destroyer. It's so easy to get our minds around this rationally. Yet, I know it can be hard to embrace emotionally at times. (Andy Stanley)



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