

PRINCIPLES FOR CHURCH LIFE

I THESS. 5:19-22

Introduction:

A. We have noticed commands that were given for individual response.

1. "Rejoice evermore."
2. "Pray without ceasing."
3. "In everything give thanks."

B. These have to do with corporate response.

1. v19-22.

I. "QUENCH NOT THE SPIRIT." V19

A. quench = of fire, to put out.

1. Metaphorically = "to suppress, to stifle."

B. How is the Spirit quenched?

1. By ignoring His presence.
2. By attitudes.
3. By actions.

II. "DESPISE NOT PROPHESYINGS" V20

A. Despise = to set down as of no account; to treat with contempt.

B. Prophecyings = the utterance of various declarations of the divine counsels under the immediate inspiration of the Spirit.

1. This guided the development of the life and doctrine of the early church.
2. Probably had a low estimate of this action. Because it was less spectacular than tongues, healing, etc.

III. "PROVE ALL THINGS" V21

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- A. prove = to test, to examine, to test with the expectation of approving.
- B. all things = primary reference is to all things set forth as the message of the Spirit.
- C. "Put it to the test."
 - 1. What test? Didn't have the Bible.
 - 2. The test of honest examination.

IV. "THE GOOD, HOLD FAST" V21

- A. the good = the intrinsic value of that which has been tested.
 - 1. Excellent, fair, pleasing.
- B. hold fast = to hold down, to hold firmly.
 - 1. Not only were they to find the good, they were to hold on, firmly retain it.

V. "ABSTAIN FROM EVERY FORM OF EVIL" V22

- A. abstain = hold yourselves off from.
 - 1. This is a continuing personal obligation.
- B. form = that which is seen; the external appearance.
- C. If it has the appearance of evil, leave it alone.