

RELATIONS WITHIN THE CHURCH

I. THESS. 5:12-15

Introduction:

- A. The church is the body of Christ.
 - 1. There must be harmony.
 - 2. Each member is to perform as God directs.
 - 3. Each member is to do, but not overdo.

- B. There must be a proper relationship.
 - 1. Too much use or not enough use.

I. INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING THEIR LEADERS. V12

- A. "Know them which labor among you."
 - 1. "Do not be ignorant of their work."
 - 2. "Appreciate them for their work."
 - 3. This surely means the pastors.

- B. "and are over you."
 - 1. "standing over you," "to be the head," "leadership."
 - 2. The church is not a pure democracy.

- C. "and admonish you."
 - 1. To put in mind, implies blame.
 - 2. It is warning, rebuke.
 - 3. While its tone is brotherly, it is big-brotherly.

- D. "esteem them very highly in love."
 - 1. "to value and respect their leaders."
 - 2. exceedingly = without reserve.

- E. "for the work's sake."
 - 1. "Because of the nature of their work."
 - 2. Not governed by personal partiality.

II. PRESERVATION OF PEACEFUL RELATIONS. V13

- A. What are some things that make for peace?
 - 1. Knowledge of the Bible.
 - 2. Prayerful people.
 - 3. Liberal people.
 - 4. Christ-o-centric.
 - 5. Love = all, a multitude of sins.

- B. What are some things that cause strife?
 - 1. Immaturity = babies are a lot of trouble.
 - 2. Hurt feelings = Matt. 18:15-17.
 - 3. Desire for recognition or power.
 - 4. Retaliation for supposed wrongs.

III. WHAT TO DO ABOUT UNHEALTHY MEMBERS.

- A. Three types needed special help.
 - 1. "warn the unruly," = the disorderly, out of order, out of place, a soldier out of step, or who has quit; any irregular life style.
 - 2. "comfort the feeble minded," = does not mean a mental deficiency. The small-souled, encourage; the despondent, the timid.
 - 3. "support the weak," = those without strength, "to hold one's self over against." They are not to be despised because they are weak.

IV. PROMOTION OF PROPER RELATIONS. V14b - 15

- A. "be patient toward all men."
 - 1. Be "long-tempered" toward all.

- B. "none render evil for evil."
 - 1. Is peculiar only to Christ.
 - 2. Most deeply ingrained sin.

- C. "ever follow that which is good."
 - 1. "do good on every occasion."
 - 2. "Always keep looking for ways to show kindness."