

Sunday, April 18, 2021

“Hope for a Waiting Church: While Waiting, Tend to Family Business: Your Church Family.”  
I Thessalonians 5:12-15

Paul uses the term “brethren” twenty-seven times in the two letters to the Thessalonians. It is his very favorite term for believers and he believed they were his family. Each one of them and him had been born again by the Spirit of God and the Holy Spirit dwelt inside each one of them.

Paul lays out some essentials for a church to be happy and thriving! This is very important business for us in the society in which we live!

I. Take Inventory of How Well We Follow the Leaders. (v.12-13)

< These are not just paid ministers; all who help in the ministry. >

A. Take inventory of their efforts.

- They tirelessly labor to exhaustion.
- They tenderly herd.
- They tenaciously teach.

B. Take inventory of our expression of gratitude.

- Do we appreciate each servant affectionately?
- Do we esteem them beyond what one could imagine?
- Do we exhibit and express peace purposefully and preserve the unity of this fellowship?

II. Take Inventory of How Well We Engage and Escalate This Body. (v.14-15)

< Follow these five steps to elevate our church. >

- A. Lovingly encounter those out of step.
- B. Enthusiastically inspire those who remain fearful and frightened.
- C. Embrace and support the weak.
- D. Exhibit patience persistently and plentifully.
- E. Eliminate the urge to right the wrong when you have been repeatedly wronged.