



# "What the Church Should Be" (Part 3)

ITHESSALONIANS 1:5-7

"Nothing in the world is dearer to God's heart than his church; therefore, being his, let us also belong to it, that by our prayers, our gifts, and our labours, we may support and strengthen it. If those who are Christ's refrained, even for a generation,...



# Charles Spurgeon, "The Best Donation"

...from numbering themselves with his people, there would be no visible church, no ordinances maintained, and, I fear, very little preaching of the gospel. Therefore, follow the Macedonian example for the sake of the church."



### Charles Spurgeon, The Best Donation

- I. The Connection Between Paul and the Thessalonians (Chapters 1-3)
  - A. Affirming Their Spiritual Growth (1)
  - B. Recalling Their Beginning (2:1-16)
  - C. Strengthening Their Resolve (2:17-3:13)

II. The Instruction Paul Gives to the Thessalonians (Chapters 4-5)

#### Outline of I Thessalonians

A. They were known for working out their faith (vs. 3a).

B. They were known for loving to serve others (vs. 3b).

C. They were known for persevering with hope (vs. 3c).

D. They were known for their election by God (vs. 4).

#### **Review of Last Week**

# KEY POINT: A godly church is elect, exemplary, enthusiastic, and expectant.

- A. They were known for working out their faith (vs. 3a).
- B. They were known for loving to serve others (vs. 3b).
- C. They were known for persevering with hope (vs. 3c).
- D. They were known for their election by God (vs. 4).
- E. They were known for their reception of the Word (vs. 5).

# What Made the Church Worthy of Emulation?

St. Francis of Assisi never said it.

• It is not a biblical application (Romans 10:13-15).

# "Preach the Gospel at all times; when necessary, use words."

"This gospel and the kind of men who were spreading it attested themselves in a way that left no doubt for those who had received this gospel and had had these men in their midst."



R.C.H. Lenski

If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.

#### Proverbs 18:13

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- E. They were known for their reception of the Word (vs. 5).
- F. They were known for their disciple-making (vs. 6a, 7).

# What Made the Church Worthy of Emulation? (vs. 3-10)

From the Greek word mimaytays

Where we get our English word "mimic"

The heart of discipleship

#### "Imitator"

I urge you, then, be **imitators** of me.

## I Corinthians 4:16 (also I Cor 11:1)

Therefore be **imitators** of God, as beloved children.

# Ephesians 5:1

Brothers, join in **imitating** me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

# Philippians 3:17

For you, brothers, became **imitators** of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea. For you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews,

### I Thessalonians 2:14

#### 1. Complication

# Discipleship: Areas of Confusion

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

#### Matthew 28:19-20

# What **ESUS**DEMANDS from the WORLD "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" JESUS

JOHN PIPER

<sup>1</sup> But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. <sup>2</sup> Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. <sup>3</sup> Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, 4 and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup> to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, ...

#### Titus 2:1-8

... and submissive to their own husbands. that the word of God may not be reviled. <sup>6</sup> Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. <sup>7</sup> Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, <sup>8</sup> and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.

#### Titus 2:1-8

1. Complication

2. Assumption

# Discipleship: Areas of Confusion

What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

# Philippians 4:9

<sup>6</sup> Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. <sup>7</sup> For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, 8 nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor ...

### II Thessalonians 3:6-9

... we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. <sup>9</sup> It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate.

#### II Thessalonians 3:6-9

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

# I Timothy 4:12

And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, <sup>12</sup> so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

#### Hebrews 6:11-12

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

#### **Hebrews 13:17**

Following others

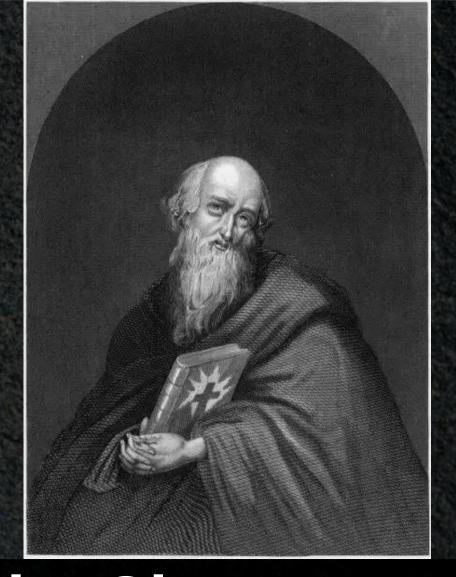
From Greek word tupos

Where we get our English word "type"

• "an exact reproduction, a model, an imprint"

### "Example"

"...illustrious and admirable men do not shut up their virtue within themselves, but by their good report benefit many, and render them better."



John Chrysostom, Homily 2

and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

## II Timothy 2:2

"...a 'disciple of Christ' is someone who has been called first to know Christ, then to follow him, and then to make disciples of all nations. That is, in our knowing Christ we are becoming like him—thinking, feeling, and living as he commands. In this spiritual ambience of personal relationship with him, that is, in light of our experience of the kingdom, he summons us to be his disciples. We are to follow him, through thick and through thin, knowing that he is there and...

Greg Herrick

...that he will reward us in his time; after all, he is the Master. But discipleship not only involves being with him, being like him, and following him, it also means that we make it our goal to disciple others—indeed, every nation under the sun. The Great Commission is not just another good idea—though it is that—it is the church's marching order. As far as I know, he never communicated another plan."

Greg Herrick

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