

An aerial photograph of a busy crosswalk with white stripes on a dark asphalt surface. Several pedestrians are walking across the crosswalk, and their long shadows are cast across the stripes. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

LAST DAYS LIVING

A STUDY IN I & II THESSALONIANS

**“Pleasing God with How We Relate to One Another”
Part I**

I THESSALONIANS 5:12-13

²² On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, ²⁴ which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

I Corinthians 12:22-26

*³⁴ A new commandment I give to you,
that you love one another:
just as I have loved you, you also are to love one
another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you
are my disciples,
if you have love for one another.”*

John 13:34-35

- a. On Sexual Purity (4:3-8)
- b. On Loving the Brethren (4:9-12)
- c. On the Reality of Future Events (4:13-18)
- d. On the Day of the Lord (5:1-11)

Ways We Please God

e. On How We Relate to One Another (12-22)

- 1. On How We Recognize Leaders (5:12-13)**
2. On Shepherding Others (5:14)
3. On Nonretaliation (5:15)
4. On Rejoicing (5:16)
5. On Regular Prayer (5:17)
6. On Gratitude (5:18)
7. On Testing the Spirits (5:19-22)

Ways We Please God

KEY POINT:

We please God with how we value our leaders.

I. Know your leaders (vs. 12).

“No family is perfect and no local church is perfect, but without a family to protect him and provide for him, a child would suffer and die. The child of God needs the church family if he is to grow, develop his gifts, and serve God.”



Warren Wiersbe
Be Ready

*Remember your leaders,
those who spoke to you the word of God.
Consider the outcome of their way of life,
and imitate their faith.*

Hebrews 13:7

I. Know your leaders (vs. 12).

A. By knowing their labor (vs 12a)

- Preaching and teaching (I Tim 5:17)

Examples of the Work of Elders

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- Preaching and teaching (I Tim 5:17)
- Showing affection (I Thess 2:7-8)
- Exhorting and encouraging (I Thess 2:11-12)
- Always working (I Thess 2:9)

Examples of the Work of Elders

“God harden me against
myself, the coward with
pathetic voice who
craves for ease and rest
and joy. Myself,
arch traitor to myself,
my hollowest friend,
my deadliest foe,
my clog whatever
road I go.”



Amy Carmichael

“Most souls are won by tired people! The best sermons are preached by tired men! The best camps are run by exhausted youth ministers! The Third World is being evangelized by tired missionaries! Christian organizations are being run by tired men! You show me a super VBS and I will show you some tired women!”



R. Kent Hughes

I. Know your leaders (vs. 12).

A. By knowing their labor (vs 12a)

B. By knowing their oversight (vs. 12b)

*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

Elder	Overseer	Pastor
References maturity and honor	References management	References shepherding
All words are synonymous.		

*This is why I left you in Crete,
so that you might put what remained into order,
and appoint elders in every town as I
directed you...For an overseer, as God's
steward,
must be above reproach.*

*He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a
drunkard or violent or greedy for gain,*

Titus 1:5, 7

*¹ So I exhort the elders among you,
as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of
Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going
to be revealed: ² shepherd the flock of God that is
among you, exercising oversight,
not under compulsion, but willingly,
as God would have you; not for shameful gain,
but eagerly; ³ not domineering over those in your
charge, but being examples to the flock.*

I Peter 5:1-3

I. Know your leaders (vs. 12).

- A. By knowing their labor (vs 12a)
- B. By knowing their oversight (vs. 12b)
- C. By knowing their admonishment (vs. 12c)

- a ministry of verbal correction
- can be a rebuke, a reproof, or a warning
- Cf. Acts 20:31; I Corinthians 4:14; Colossians 1:28

The Ministry of Admonishment

*Rather, speaking the truth in love,
we are to grow up in every way into him who is
the head, into Christ,*

Ephesians 4:15

I. Know your leaders (vs. 12).

II. Esteem your leaders (vs. 13a).

*And Paul said, “I did not know, brothers,
that he was the high priest, for it is written,
‘You shall not speak evil of a ruler of
your people.’”*

Acts 23:5

*Let the one who is taught the word share all
good things with the one who teaches.*

Galatians 6:6

I. Know your leaders (vs. 12).

II. Esteem your leaders (vs. 13a).

III. Be peaceful for your leaders (vs. 13b).

*If possible, so far as it depends on you,
live peaceably with all.*

Romans 12:18

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

III John 4