

The First Baptist Church of Columbus

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Sermon Notes Outline 90 for video posted November 28, 2021

T I T L E: CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOR IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

T E X T: 1 Thes. 5:12-18

I. CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOR IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD IS IMPERATIVE...

A.especially in terms of relationships in the body of Christ, i.e. there should be an underlying sense of respect for the leadership in the church.

Leadership in the Church ---- **V. 13** — be at peace, live in peace...(imperative) — implied is the idea that the leadership of the church is serving the Lord with a temperament of servanthood not a temperament of lordship over others.

B. ...especially in the ministry of the church as a whole, i.e. that the ministry of the church one to another should be shaped by the needs of the persons being ministered to.

Believers will encounter unruly people, depressed people, and people struggling with issues from their former lifestyle. Each sort needs a common approach of patience but also a specialized approach to deal With their particular problem.

— **V. 14** "admonish" — Warn" here means more than rebuke or point a finger. It includes the idea of instructing. Believers must help the "unruly" to see they are going in the wrong direction and show them how to get back on the right path (Galatians 6:1).

“console” (comfort) — “Comfort the feeble-minded” in King James' day meant to encourage those who were irresolute, vacillating, too weak to have any real purpose or to overcome discouragements. It included those who were so despondent they were tempted to give up.

“sustain” **V. 14** — do what you can to encourage their presence in body and work of the Lord.

“be patient” **V. 14** — This means being patient and longsuffering with all believers (1 Corinthians 13:4; Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13).

“pursue” **V. 14** – the good, what is best for others, for the good of others and of course the body of Christ.

II. CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOR IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD IS NOT NECESSARILY SOMETHING THAT TAKES PLACE AUTOMATICALLY....

A. ...otherwise these commands would not be necessary.

Living the Christian life is not something that just happens simply because a person has made a commitment to Christ. Redemption happens and a certain level of sanctification takes place however, there are quirks contrary to Christian behavior that remain and periodically need to be addressed if we expect to be conformed to the image of Christ.

B. ...otherwise Paul’s command to the Christians at Philippi would be unnecessary.

Philippians 2:12–13 ---- **12** So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; **13** for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

C. ...otherwise Paul’s words to the church at Rome would be unnecessary.

Romans 8:29 ----For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren.

III. CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOR IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD ALSO INVOLVES AN INNER-DISPOSITION OF JOY, PRAYERFULNESS AND GRATITUDE THAT SHOULD CHARACTERIZE EACH CHRISTIAN. VV. 16-18

Three more commands are issued to Christians involving a consistent inner-disposition in response to life in this world.

They are rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks.

A. Rejoicing always is not about doing so according to our feelings but according to our desire to be pleasing to Him especially when our feelings are struggling to find good reason to rejoice. (We rejoice because He is worthy of our praise.)

Temperament I suspect plays a role in this.

The little boy who was asked to pray... to give thanks at the dinner table. He looked at all the food and finally after several seconds had passed, he said, "Lord, things don't look too promising, but I thank you for them and I will eat them. Amen!

B. Praying without ceasing is not about praying every moment 24/7–365 but about an inner-disposition of prayerfulness that's prompted even by the least of our concerns.

Every time I forget to feel grateful, I hear the voice of an eight-year-old named Christina, who had cancer of the nervous system. When asked what she wanted for her birthday, she thought long and hard and finally said, "I don't know. I have two sticker books and a cabbage patch doll. I have everything!" (Erma Bombeck)

C. Giving thanks in everything is especially taxing on developing and maintaining an inner disposition of constant and consistent gratitude for all things.

Matthew Henry, the famous Bible expositor, was once accosted by thieves and robbed of his wallet. He wrote these lines in his diary.

Let me be thankful, first, because I was never robbed before; second, because, although they took my wallet, they did not take my life; third, because, although they took my all, it was not much; and fourth, because it was I who was robbed, not I who robbed.

Conclusion: Emerson said that if the stars came out only once a year, everybody would stay up all night to behold them. We have seen the stars so often that we don't bother to look at them anymore. We have grown accustomed to our blessings.

The Israelites in the wilderness got accustomed to their blessings, and God had to chasten the people (see Num 11). God had fed the nation with heavenly manna each morning, and yet the people were getting tired of it. But now our whole being is dried up," they said, "there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!" (V. 6).

Nothing but manna! They were experiencing a miracle of God's provision every morning, but they were no longer excited about it. Nothing but manna!