



Living Leadership

GROWING DISCIPLE-MAKING LEADERS

Among You and Over You

1 Thessalonians 5:12-24

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Among you ... and over you

You know what kind of men we proved to be **among you** for your sake **1 Thessalonians 1 verse 5b**

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labour **among you** and are **over you** in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. **1 Thessalonians 5 verses 12-13**



1 Thessalonians 5

verses 12 to 24

Our goal

A community (or family) known for and eager for:

- **Peace** (verse 13b)
- **Good deeds, not evil** (verses 15, 22)
- **God's truth on fire by the Spirit** (verses 19-20)
- **Discernment** (verse 21)

3 leadership priorities

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labour among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work **verses 12 to 13**

1. **Set an example** ("labour among you")
2. **Step up to responsibility** ("over you")
3. **Stand for truth** ("admonish you")

Over you?

προϊσταμένους (*proistamenous*)

Lit. 'those who are set before you'

Not lording it over people, but:

- leading the way by **example**;
- and taking **responsibility**; to
- **provide** for **and protect** them (overseeing and equipping – Ephesians 4 verse 12)

Overseeing the church

Elders/overseers/equivalent organising for **gospel faithfulness** in:

- **Doctrine** – what we believe
- **Discipline** – how we behave
- **Direction** – where we're bound

Deacons/equivalent administering material resources to support these aims

Discussion Questions

What does it mean in practice for ministers/elders/overseers to organise the church for faithful doctrine, discipline and direction?

What distracts us from that task?

What can we do to keep this as our focus and how can deacons/equivalent help us?

3 leadership tasks

And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the faint-hearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. **verse 14**

1. **Admonish** the idle
2. **Encourage** the faint-hearted
3. **Help** the weak

3 keys to keeping going

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. **verses 16 to 18**

- 1. Rejoicing** (receive & respond to God's grace)
- 2. Prayer** (seek God's direction & provision)
- 3. Thanksgiving** (return gratitude to God)

One leadership hope

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. **verses 23 to 24**

Discussion Questions

How can we shape our ministries around the priorities in these verses?

How can we help one another to rejoice, pray and give thanks as we do so?