

Sermon Handout
Building One Another Up
I Thessalonians 5:14-15

- I. “We exhort you” v. 14a (*cf.* 2:3; 4:1 – “urge,” “encourage”)
 - a. “You” here is plural, as in v. 12
 - Paul is addressing the congregation as a whole
 - In v. 12, congregants addressed concerning the elders
 - b. The Elders’ role to be imitated by the congregation (Eph 4:11-16)
 - The congregation is to perform the tasks Paul sets forth:

- II. The people are to pay attention to edifying one another
 - a. Warn those who are idle (loafers) v. 14b
 - i. Who are these people? *cf.* 4:11; II Thess 3:6-12
 - ii. *Contra* Pharaoh’s unjust accusation Ex 5 :8, 17
 - b. Comfort the discouraged v. 14c
 - i. Who are these people? *cf.* 4:13-18; 5:1-4
 - ii. “As a father to his children” 2:11
 - iii. Jesus does not break the bruised reed Is 42:3
 - c. Support those who are weak in the faith v. 14d
 - i. Grab hold of them *cf.* Tit 1:9; Isa 56:4
 - ii. Gently bring them to safety
 - d. Be patient toward all men v. 14e
 - i. Their provocations should not drive you to anger
 - ii. Patience explained Eph 4:2 (*cf.* I Cor 13:4; Gal 5:22)
 - e. Don’t be self-centered; do what is good v. 15
 - i. “Follow good w/ respect to other people”
 - ii. Both in the church and outside it v. 15b (*cf.* Eph 4:17-18)

- III. The Church is to learn from Jesus & his servants
 - a. To love one another Jn 13:34; Mt 22:36-40; *cf.* I Jn 3:14
 - b. To build up the weak Gal 6:1-2
 - c. To minister in the world I Thess 3:12; 4:12; Mt 28:18-20