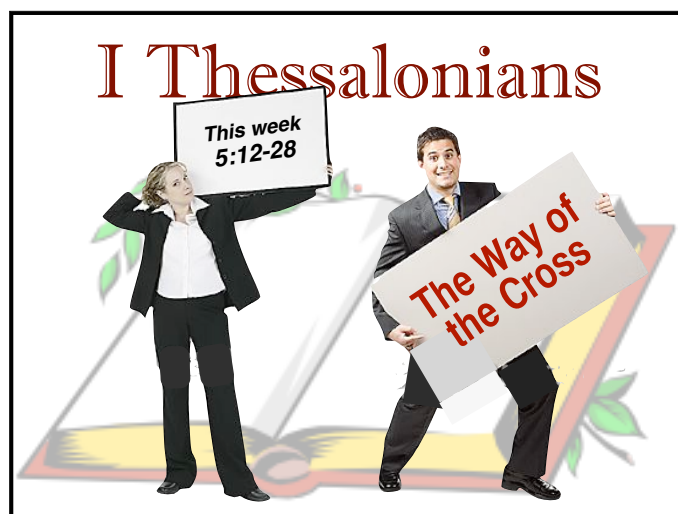




1



2

Ephesians 4

"1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of **the calling with which you have been called**, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the **unity** of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Discipleship is the heart of the Body of Christ's character & calling.

1 Corinthians 12

"1 Now there are **varieties** of **gifts**, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of **ministries**, and the same Lord. 6 And there are varieties of **effects**, but the same God who works all things in all persons."

The Body of Christ consists of different abilities, roles, & responsibilities.

Galatians 3:28

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for **you are all one in Christ Jesus**."

Our different responsibilities do NOT convey a "class system" of shepherds & sheep.

3

1 Thessalonians 5

"12 But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you, and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction, 13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another.

14 And we urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all men. 15 See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all men. 16 Rejoice always; 17 pray without ceasing; 18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 19 Do not quench the Spirit; 20 do not despise prophetic utterances 21 But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; 22 abstain from every form of evil.

23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ 24 Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass. 25 Brethren, pray for us. 26 Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss. 27 I adjure you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brethren. 28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you."

4

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Paul appeals to the responsibility of his readers and also to the role of God in making disciples.

5

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Paul sees peacemaking as an important part of disciple making.

6

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Paul knew first hand that Christian leaders in the 1st cent. came under stress from both Jew and Gentile cultures.

1 Corinthians 1:23

"but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a **stumbling block**, and to Gentiles **foolishness**,

2 Corinthians 11

"24 Five times I received **from the Jews** thirty-nine lashes. ... 26 I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers **from the Gentiles**,"

Disciples are alien ambassadors who need assistance in being aliens as well as ambassadors.

7

James 3

"1 Let not many of you become **teachers**, my brethren, knowing that as **such we will incur a stricter judgment**. 2 For we all stumble in many *ways*. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well."

Those who CHALLENGE the world's culture need sensitive support and strength from the sheep.

Ephesians 6

"5 Slaves, **be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh**, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; 6 not by way of eye-service, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. ... 9 And, masters, **do the same things to them**, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him."

Both the slave and the master are challenged by the call to model the Spirit of Christ (agape - self sacrificing love).

8

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"14 And we **urge** you, brethren, **admonish** the unruly, **encourage** the fainthearted, **help** the weak, **be patient** with all men. 15 See that no one **repays** another with evil for evil, but always **seek after** that which is **good for one another and for all men**. 16 **Rejoice** always; 17 **pray** without ceasing; 18 in everything **give thanks**; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 19 **Do not quench the Spirit**; 20 do not **despise prophetic utterances** 21 But **examine** everything carefully; **hold fast** to that which is good; 22 **abstain** from every form of evil."

All who are CHALLENGED BY the world's culture also need sensitive support and help.

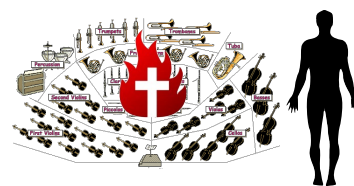
1 Corinthians 12

"21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you'; or again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' 22 On the contrary, it is much truer that **the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary**;"

We all have needs and are needed as part of the Body of Christ.

9

The Body of Christ is unity with diversity.



The church is the Body of Christ, especially when the pieces function by **doing their part while attached to one another and the head (Jesus).**



not clones of one template



not body parts disconnected



not a class system of value differences

10

1 Peter 5

"1 Therefore, I urge elders among you, as *your* fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, *and* one who is also a fellow partaker of the glory that is to be revealed, 2 **shepherd the flock of God** among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion but **voluntarily**, according to *the will* of God; and not with greed but with **eagerness**; 3 nor yet as domineering over those assigned to your care, but by proving to be **examples** to the flock."

Shepherds can assimilate or avoid the world's culture but they should see it as an opportunity to address it.

5 You younger men, likewise, **be subject to your elders**; and all of you, clothe yourselves with **humility** toward one another, because God is opposed to the proud, but He gives grace to the humble."

Sheep also must see the culture as an opportunity.

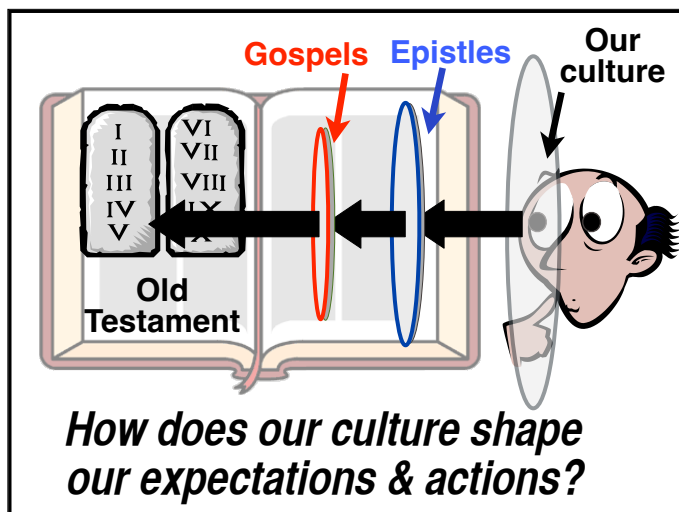
2 Corinthians 12:10

"Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; **for when I am weak, then I am strong.**"

11

A "church" seeking to be like the world will not win the world, the world has won it.

12



13

Galatians 5:13
 “For you were called to freedom, brethren; only **do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh**, but through love serve one another.”

- **How we measure** - wealth, power, reality, success, hope, freedom, the human dilemma, peace, security, etc.
- **Democracy** - nationalism, capitalism, patriotism, alienation, kingdom politics
- **Individualism** - Personal relationships over communal.
 - **Competition** - without cooperation & compassion.
 - **Transactions** - We get what we earn & deserve.
- **Narcissism** - The world revolves around ME.
- **Personal welfare** - over general welfare.
- **Pragmatism** - If it works, it's of God.

14

1 Thessalonians 5

“23 Now may the God of **peace** Himself **sanctify** you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be **preserved** complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

25 Brethren, pray for us. 26 Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss. I adjure you by the Lord to have this letter read to all the brethren. 28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.”

What is Paul's emphasis in this letter?

1. **Behavior, not “orthodox theology” is the issue.**
2. **Behavior within the Body of Christ is the issue.**
3. **Response to areas of vulnerability is the issue.**
4. **This is a request (not a command) suggesting a FREE RESPONSE is asked for and expected.**

15

A worldly church is where:

- **the ministers minister and the congregation congregates** to consume, complain, and criticize as it expects to be comforted and catered to.
- **members are expected** to look busy, act holy, and be happy as they show up, shut up and cough up in support of the leader's vision.
- **pastors feel entitled** to lord it over, manipulate around, and prey upon the sheep as their teaching is more “nouns” & optics than “verbs” & authentic action.

Christians can look more like disciples of Uncle Sam than disciples of Jesus Christ.

16

A Godly church is where:

- **the shepherds and the sheep are edified and expected** to know themselves, accept themselves, get over themselves, and give themselves.
- **both are seeking to follow Christ** in sacrificing themselves to help others realize the deepest desires of God's image within them - serenity, security, significance, & social sharing (as the Body of Christ).
- **both experience & express God's love** with all who bear God's image.

Church members are alien ambassadors in this world when they are disciples of Jesus.

17

A healthy Christian understands:

The Law (and holiness)

Its demands of us are met by Christ	Its domain over us is terminated in Christ	Our death to it is final with Christ
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Romans 7 (Gal.2:19, 3:24-25, Col.2:20)

“4 Therefore, my brethren, you also were **made to die to the Law** through the body of Christ, that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, that we might bear fruit for God. 5 For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death. 6 But now we have been **released from the Law**, having died to that by which we were bound, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter.”

The Gospel (and faith)

We “in Christ” (before God)	“Christ in us” (before the world)
Adopted and Anointed	Alien and Ambassador
Assured not Ashamed	Assertive not Absent

18

A healthy Christian is motivated by grace & love.

2 Corinthians 5

"14 For **the love of Christ controls us**, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; 15 and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. 16 Therefore from now on we recognize no man according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. 17 Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, **new things have come**. 18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation."

God is glorified only when our behavior is motivated by grace and love, not by law and fear.

Matthew 23:13-33

"23 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have **neglected the weightier provisions of the law:** justice and mercy and faithfulness;

Romans 8:15

"For ye have **not received the spirit of bondage again to fear;** but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."

19

1 Corinthians 11:1

"Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."

- **Most of Jesus' ministry was in Galilee** - on the wrong side of the tracks, culturally. (Jn.1:46)
- **Jesus' pardon of the adulterous woman** (Jn.8:1-11) - put him on the wrong side of the Law as did his **healing on the Sabbath**. (Mk.3:1-6)
- **Jesus' temptation in the wilderness** - made a mockery of common sense in the world's eyes. (Matt.4:1-11)
- **Jesus' contact with tax collectors, lepers, a Samaritan woman, etc.** - made a mockery of Jewish tradition / Law. (Mk.1:40-45, 2:13-17, 3:1-6, 7:24-30)
- **Jesus' crucifixion** - marked him as a criminal (sinner).

20

The temptation of Jesus **and for many of us is:**
to invest our faith in God but for worldly things.

Matthew 4:1-11

"3 **Command** that these stones become bread."

Change circumstances!

6 **He will command His angels concerning you** so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

Claim promises!

9 All these things I will give you, **if you (prostrate yourself before) me.**

Compromise means!

21

The Way of the Cross got Jesus in big trouble with this world's culture.

- **Hanging out with the wrong crowd** - being defiled by association with sinners and breaking the Sabbath.
- **Forgiving those who did not deserve it** - prodigal son, adulterous woman, thieves on the cross, etc.
- **Failing to bring in the EXPECTED kingdom** - wearing a crown of thorns rather than a crown of triumph.



A worldly church

We are disciples

of ...?

is not a



worldwide church.

22

Judged by our works

Next week
Rev. 20:11-15

God's final
judgment
and our
works

23