

*“Instruction for Inner Church Life: Concerning Your Spiritual Leaders”*

*1 Thess. 5:12-13*

*The Sufficiency of His Grace for the Sustaining of His Suffering People*

At WBC, we have what is referred to theological as a doxological worldview. We believe all things happen and exist for God’s glory. The intent of creation is to provide an arena in which God’s glory is revealed. One of the means by which God brings glory to His name is through the redemption of fallen humanity.

Local church ministry exists to declare the sufficiency of Christ for the salvation of sinners and for the satisfaction of saints; thus, Paul gives us this paragraph of instruction.

Paul wishes the people of Thessalonica to understand the relationship they are to have with those who are in positions of leadership in the local church ministry.

I. Elders are leaders in the local church.

A. Elders are to diligently labor among the people (v.12a).

The pastorate can be a lazy man’s paradise.

B. Elders have charge over the people (v.12b).

As overseers, the elders are to watch over, lead, and protect the people of God.

C. Elders are to give instruction to the people (v.12c).

The word “*instruction*” is our English word nouthetic.

To warn one from the Scripture is to show them the barrenness of life lived apart from Christ. It is to see how shallow the things of this world truly are and how apart from Him, life is meaningless. This is the role of the elder.

II. The local church is to protect the Elders (v.13).

How does the local fellowship protect their elders?

By knowing them and by thinking correctly of them.

A. The local church is to appreciate the Elder (v.12).

B. The local church is to esteem the Elder because of their work (v.13a).

The word “*Esteem*” in our passage is the same word used in Hebrews 13:7, 9, and 17 for “*leadership*.” Here the idea is that of “*consider or think*.”

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Notice the qualifier, "In love." Love is to color our action of holding the elders in high regard. Notice with me loves action in First Corinthians 13:4-7.

As Senior Pastor/Teaching Elder, my function administratively is different from the men with whom I serve, but our "oversight" is the same.

III. There is to be unity between the local church and the Elders (v.13b).

We are a family and a body. We are here to see Him and to declare Him openly and publicly to all who come into our circle of influence.