



Dealing with Dysfunction

2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

4/3/16

How to disciple the dysfunctional

1. S_____ from lazy brothers

⁶ Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep aloof from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.

2. F_____ the example of industrious brothers (work hard night and day and pay your way)

⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you,

⁸ nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we *kept* working night and day so that we might not be a burden to any of you;

⁹ not because we do not have the right *to this*, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, that you might follow our example.

3. Let lazy brothers go h_____

¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone will not work, neither let him eat.

4. I_____ lazy brothers (to stop being busybodies, to be industrious and to pay their way)

¹¹For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies.

¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread.

5. Be industrious in occupation and m_____

¹³ But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good.

1. Stay away from lazy brothers (so that they may experience embarrassment and so that they may experience brotherly correction)

¹⁴ And if anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that man and do not associate with him, so that he may be put to shame.

¹⁵ And yet do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

Some passages on related topics

Church discipline

Matthew 18:10 "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you, that their angels in heaven continually behold the face of My Father who is in heaven.

¹¹ *"For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.*

¹² "What do you think? If any man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go and search for the one that is straying?

¹³ "And if it turns out that he finds it, truly I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine which have not gone astray.

¹⁴ "Thus it is not *the* will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones perish.

¹⁵ "And if your brother sins, go and reprove him in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

¹⁶ "But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed.

¹⁷ "And if he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax-gatherer.

¹⁸ "Truly I say to you, whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹ "Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven.

²⁰ "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst."

²¹ Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

How to work

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

² Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise),

³ that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.

⁴ And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

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 eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

⁷ With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men,

⁸ knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.

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.

Self-examination for judgementalism

James 2:1 My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with *an attitude of* personal favoritism.

² For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes,

³ and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool,"

⁴ have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?

⁵ Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world *to be* rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

⁶ But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court?

⁷ Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called?

⁸ If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law, according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.

⁹ But if you show partiality, you are committing sin *and* are convicted by the law as transgressors.

¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one *point*, he has become guilty of all.

¹¹ For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not commit murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but do commit murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

¹² So speak and so act, as those who are to be judged by *the* law of liberty.

¹³ For judgment *will be* merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

¹⁴ What use is it, my brethren, if a man says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him?

¹⁵ If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food,

¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that?

¹⁷ Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself.

Love and generosity

1 John 3:16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

¹⁷ But whoever has the world's goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

¹⁸ Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

International love and generosity

2 Corinthians 8:1 Now, brethren, we *wish to* make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia,

² that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality.

³ For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability *they gave* of their own accord,

⁴ begging us with much entreaty for the favor of participation in the support of the saints,

⁵ and *this*, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.