

Love for the Church
1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

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1. We live in a world full of “half empty glass” attitudes.
2. As Paul closes 1 Thessalonians, he emphasized the importance of encouragement.
 - a. **1 Thessalonians 4:18: “Therefore encourage each other with these words” and in 5:11: “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”**
3. That tells me that I have an option of how I am going to approach life.
4. If the New Testament teaches us anything, it teaches us that Jesus loves the church. There are myriads of Scriptures that make this point. What are the real signs of love for the church? Let's dig into this text and learn several ways to show our love for Christ's church.

I. We Love the Church by Respecting Those Who Labor. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, “Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you.”

- A. Paul addresses two key factors involved in the maturity of a church.
- B. These leaders are **“those who work hard among you.” (5:12)**
 1. **1 Thessalonians 2:9**
 2. **Acts 20:20**
- C. Leaders are **“over you in the Lord.” (5:12)**
 1. **1 Peter 5:2-3; Luke 22:24-27**
- D. Leaders are those **“who admonish you.” (5:12)**
 1. **Acts 20:31**

II. We Love The Church By Responding to the Shepherds.

1 Thessalonians 5:13a, “Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work.”

- A. The first responsibility of the sheep toward the shepherds is to **“hold them in highest regard.”**
 1. **1 Timothy 5:17**
- B. The second responsibility of the sheep toward the shepherds is to love them.

III. We Love the Church by Living in Peace With Each Other.

1 Thessalonians 5:13b, “Live in peace with each other.”

- A. Paul gives an imperative to **“Live in peace with each other.” (5:13)**
- B. To promote peace, we must be proactive.
 1. **Matthew 5:9**
 2. **Ephesians 4:3**