

# Midweek Bible Study

## Life in God's Family

### 1 Thess. 5:12-15

#### Introduction

1. Doctrinal precision and speculative theology are the rage. Doctrine is important, theology is important, but sometimes when we exalt doctrine, we discount ethics.
2. There is no way to separate doctrine from ethics in Scripture. Although they are not the same, they are inextricably bound. How we treat each other, how we minister to each other, matters.
3. But life in God's family can be challenging.
4. Paul has already provided a model of ministry to us (2:7-12)
5. Paul is now going to give specific instruction to living with family members in the body.
  - 5:12-13a – relationships with leaders
  - 5:13b – general principle
  - 5:14 – specific instruction

#### How to Deal with Various Kinds of Church Members (14)

- A. We exhort you brethren
- B. Admonish the disorderly
- C. Comfort the faint-hearted
- D. Stand by the weak
- E. Be patient with all

#### Conclusion:

“Whoever is truly humbled — will not be easily angry, nor harsh or critical of others. He will be compassionate and tender to the infirmities of his fellow-sinners, knowing that if there is a difference — it is grace alone which has made it! He knows that he has the seeds of every evil in his own heart. And under all trials and afflictions — he will look to the hand of the Lord, and lay his mouth in the dust, acknowledging that he suffers much less than his iniquities have deserved.” — [John Newton, The Letters of John Newton](#)

(Isa. 42:3; 61:1; Matt. 11:28-30)

