

1 Thessalonians 5:25-27

First RPC Durham

I. The Church's Prayer for One Another (v 25).

- A.** We pray as brothers and sisters to our heavenly father (*WSC 100*)
- B.** The Church is to pray for her elders — *for us*
 - 1) As is the particular context of this passage (1 Thes 1:1, 5:12-13).
 - 2) Ways in which we are to pray for our elders (our local session, our presbytery and synod, and for other faithful ministers)
- C.** The Church is to pray for one another (1 Thes 5:16-18)
- D.** Warnings against common temptations
 - 1) Beware the temptation of when prayer requests really becomes gossip.
 - 2) Beware the temptation of giving prayer requests without praying yourself.
 - 3) Beware the temptation of noting other's prayer requests without praying.
 - 4) Beware the temptation of not praying along with the minister during corporate prayer in public worship.
- E.** Encouragements for Prayer
 - 1) In doing so, we follow the example of Christ Jesus, the Chief Shepherd of the Church (Lk 22:31-32; Jn 17:20-21)
 - 2) Though we are lead in prayer by another, yet these prayers are our own and we are truly together before the throne of grace.
 - 3) When we have brought to God our petitions, we have taken the matter to the one who alone can accomplish and bless our desires.
- F.** Uses from the Text
 - 1) We are to delight and be regular in corporate prayer (Rev 2:1; Heb 2:12, 12:25; Song of Songs 2:4; 2 Cor 13:14; Acts 1:14)
 - 2) We are to persist in private prayer for one another.
 - 3) Every member of the Visible Church is called upon for this ministry of prayer.

II. The Church's Love Toward One Another (v 26).

- A.** The Church is the household of faith, the Israel of God
 - 1) We love the Lord's people because we love the Lord (1 Jn 4:7)
 - 2) We love the Lord because He first loved us (1 Jn 4:10)

- B.** We are to have and show affection toward one another
 - 1) Our inward Christian love for one another at times may be expressed outwardly.
 - 2) Which is to be a holy affection.
 - 3) Which is to be a genuine love (Rom 12:9a, 10a)
- C.** The Lord's Day is a delight and joy to God's people, and thus filled with brotherly affection (Psa 122:1-2)
- D.** Answering Objections Hindering Christian Affection:
 - 1) Objection 1: How can I greet everyone with holy affection when I do not get along well with this other person? (1 Cor 12:4-6; 1 Pt 3:7)
 - 2) Objection 2: But I am not an extrovert
- E.** Uses from the Text
 - 1) If we are to greet the brethren with love, we must also know one another (Gal 6:2; 1 Jn 5:3b).
 - 2) God commands all believers and their children to be a part of the fellowship of the saints (*HC 55*; 1 Thes 5:11)
 - 3) Because of our union with Christ and communion in Him together, we may also greet those who visit us and are indeed fellow saints (Phil 4:21)

III. The Church's Devotion to the Word of God (v 27).

- A.** The reading of God's Word is an element of worship
 - 1) By the order of God's Word
 - 2) Who is to read the Word in public worship (*WCL 156*)
 - 3) The connection between the reading and preaching of the Word (Neh 8:8)
- B.** The reading of God's Word is to take place in private and in the family (*WLC 156*; Dt 6:6-7)
- C.** The unity of the Church is built upon our union with Christ (Psa 22:30-31)
- D.** Uses from the Text
 - 1) We are to delight in God's Word. As it both read and preached (Psa 119:129-131)
 - 2) Be attentive to and meditate upon God's Word (Dt 31:12)
 - 3) Apply God's Word
 - 4) Converse about God's Word (Eph 4:29)