

Paul's Exhortations for Living the Christian Life

Books browsed: Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I/II Thess, Romans. Other books not browsed because I didn't have time to get around to them.

Recurring Themes:

1. Submit to one another / through love serve one another.
2. Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace with all humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another in truth and love.
3. Encourage one another.
4. Learn and do what pleases the Lord. Typically in relation to the above.
5. Follow Paul's teachings.
6. Pray for the spread of the Gospel. Typically with Paul, but the application is clear.

Galatians 5 and 6: "Living by the Spirit" == through love serve one another. Harming and exploiting and the like are indicative of unbelievers.

Ephesians 3: Be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 4: Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace with all humility and gentleness and patience, bearing with one another in truth (4:15) and love.

Ephesians 5: Walk as children of the light, learning what pleases the Lord.

Do not become foolish, but live wisely by understanding the Lord's will. [5:18] Do not be filled by wine, but be filled by the Holy Spirit, resulting in encouraging one another, praising God, and submitting to one another, obedient to your parents, masters, not threatening those under you, etc.

Ephesians 6:10 Be strengthened in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Clothe yourselves with the full armor of God (truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and the word of God). Pray at all times "in the Spirit". Be alert, persevere and pray for believers and especially for boldly spreading the Gospel.

Philippians 1: conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, standing firm in one spirit, with one mind, contending side by side for the faith of the gospel, not intimidated by your opponents.

Philippians 2: Be of the same mind, having the same love, united in spirit, having one purpose.

Don't be motivated by selfish ambition, but in humility treat one another as more important than yourself. Don't be concerned only by your own interests, but about the interests of others as well.

Have the same attitude toward one another that Christ Jesus had.

Just as you have always obeyed, keep working out your salvation with awe and reverence, **for the one bringing forth in you both the desire and effort is God.**

Do everything without grumbling or arguing.

Philippians 3: Rejoice in the Lord!

Beware of the evil workers.

Imitate Christ as Paul does, and carefully observe those who are living Godly lives.

Philippians 4: Rejoice in the Lord. Do not be anxious about situations, but instead pray about them to God.

Dwell on things that are true, worthy of respect, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent or praiseworthy. And do what Paul says.

Colossians 2: Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and firm in your faith just as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Don't follow empty, deceitful philosophy.

Colossians 3: Keep thinking/seeking about things above, not things on earth (sin).

Don't speak sinfully (rage, malice, slander, abuse).

Have a heart of mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another. To these add love as a perfect bond.

Let the peace of Christ be in control of your heart, and be thankful.

[3:16] Let the word of Christ dwell in your richly, teaching and exhorting one another with all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, all with grace in your hearts to God.

Do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Submit to one another, obey, and treat others with justice and fairness.

Be devoted to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving.

Pray that God will open a door for the Gospel to be spread. Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of opportunities. Let your speech be gracious, seasoned with salt, so you know how you should answer everyone.

1 Thess 4: flee immorality and know how to live in holiness and honor. Do not violate the rights or take advantage of a believer.

Love one another [:9], mind your own business, do your own work.

Encourage each other with Paul's words [by implication, the Bible's promises].

1 Thess 5: stay alert and sober = put on the armor of God (faith, love, and the hope of salvation).

Acknowledge your church's elders, and esteem them most highly in love because of their work.

Be at peace among yourselves.

Admonish the undisciplined.

Comfort the discouraged.

Help the weak.

Be patient towards all.

Pursue what is good for one another and for all (no “eye for an eye”).

Always rejoice.

Constantly pray.

In everything give thanks.

Do not extinguish the Spirit.

Do not treat prophecies with contempt.

Examine all things and hold fast to the good.

Avoid every form of evil.

II Thessalonians 2: Stand firm and hold to Paul’s teachings.

II Thess 3: Pray for Paul (and so, evangelism in general).

Keep away from (do not associate CLOSELY with) idle believers, who do not imitate Paul / live contrary to Paul’s teachings. Admonish him, but don’t treat him as an unbeliever! Everyone should be willing to work.

Do not grow weary in doing what is right.

Romans 6:11 So you too consider yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Do not let sin reign in your mortal body. Present your bodies as a sacrifice, alive, holy, and pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service.

Do not be conformed to this present world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may test and approve what is the will of God – what is good and well-pleasing and perfect.

Do not think more highly of yourself than you ought to think,

But think with sober discernment, as God has given to each of you a measure of faith. Serve the Body as you are enabled to serve.

Love without hypocrisy.

Abhor what is evil and cling to what is good.

Be devoted to one another with mutual love, showing eagerness in honoring one another.

Be enthusiastic to serve the Lord: rejoice in hope, endure in suffering, persist in prayer, contribute to the saints’ needs, go and be hospitable.

Bless those who persecute you – don’t curse them.

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with who weep.

Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly.

Do not be conceited.

Do not repay evil for evil; consider what is good for all people.

As much as you are able, live at peace with all people.

Do not avenge yourselves; let God take care of that.

Overcome evil with good.

Submit to the civil government. Pay your bills and taxes. Honor civil authority.

Don't owe anything to anyone, except the debt of love to one another.

Live decently, not in carousing or drunkenness, not in immorality or sensuality, not in discord and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh to arouse its desires.

Receive the one who is weak in faith, and don't dispute over differing opinions. Do not despise the one who puts limitations on himself for God. Or perhaps you're judging someone because they're not doing the daily office correctly? He's already convinced, and he's trying to please God. You're not his boss; God is. Let God deal with it.

Be determined never to place an obstacle or a trap before a brother or sister.

Do not destroy by your liberty someone for whom Christ died.

Serve Christ in righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit [this is a communal command].

Pursue what makes for peace and for building up one another.

Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food.

Receive one another just as Christ also received you.

Romans 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe in him, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Pray for Paul.

Watch out for [and avoid] those who create dissensions and obstacles [using smooth talk and flattery to deceive] contrary to Paul's teaching [and the Bible].

Be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil.