

I. Establish Standards - 2 Thess. 3:6-9

1. We command you - strong word (**verse 6**)
Rea -again, brothers and sisters
 2. Stay away from the idle
-and those who do not live according to the principles of Christ
-the disruptive
-a soldier who moves from the ranks
 3. Avoid these people
Rea -what about you, do you avoid some? - sounds strong doesn't it - doesn't sound very 2022 "tolerant" - that means our standards need to be changed... not the word of God
Rea -it is good to have friends who are "sinner" but to live your life with them is another thing
Rea -the writer sees this as person who would not work - but I feel it goes beyond that
 4. We were not idle (**verse 7**) when we were with you
Rea -he combats bad behavior with an example of good behavior
-follow our example
Rea -there is no substitute for an exemplary life and lifestyle! - Paul and company worked hard for the gospel and hard to fund their own lives
 5. They did not eat anyone else's food (**verse 8**) without paying for it
-worked day and night
-laboring and toiling
-so they would not present themselves as a burden
-by so doing he eliminated any accusation of doing what they did for money
 6. They had the "right" to such support (**verse 9**)
Rea -at 1 Cor 9:1-12 Paul talks at length about this "right" of support - this gets no air, but it should. Pastors/ ministers have a right to support.
-others were paid in Paul's day but not him - he refuses the pay
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. If you dare talk about preachers pay
 2. The churches I have pastored have never really tithed
-that leads to numerous church fights over money
 3. Discuss withdrawal from the idle
 4. In our world, country and even more so in the church we are L.A.Z.Y. - we need a revival in our work ethic
-at your job you ought be exemplary in how you ...show up, work, and can be depended on in that way

II. Provide - 2 Thess. 3:10-12

1. Unwilling to work (**verse 10**)
-given as a "rule" - a standard
Rea -so, ought we help the poor? Who will not work?
Rea -some are unable to provide for their own needs
Rea -benevolence has become complicated

2. Scripture exhorts repeatedly that we ought take care of the needy and poor
- Rea -how might we “square” that with verse 10?
- Rea -idleness can become a lifestyle - I believe it is so today - our youth expect good pay for little work - shorter hours, more benefits for less work
3. Some of you are idle (**verse 11**)
- A. Note “we hear” - a reputation for this
- B. Busy/ busybodies
- Rea -often the church’s biggest critics are those who “have nothing to do”
- Rea 4. Our work ought be a witness!!!
5. Settle down and earn your way (**verse 12**)
- another time “command”
- settle into it
- earn your way
- Rea -earn your own way
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Eph 6:6-9 deals with how slaves were to work - shouldn’t workers be just as faithful?
2. Leisure is the word of the day - more time off
3. Follow the downward trend here
- idle, then became busy bodies
4. The biggest critics are usually the least busy working in the church

III. Be Confident - 2 Thess 3:13-15

1. Never tire of doing good (**verse 13**)
- Rea -it does get “tiring”
- avoid the discouragement of your “nose to the grindstone”
- Rea -if someone is working hard and they notice that their neighbor is not... it is very, very discouraging
2. Not easy to continue to share the gospel -it requires hard work and perseverance
3. For a second time in this passage he counsels withdrawing from those who don’t work (**verse 14**)
- take note of them
- don’t associate with them
- ashamed - the hoped for result of your none-association
- stay away from them
- Rea -discuss how you might do this and still not be a “Pharisee”
4. This is not excommunication but a change in fellowship
- Rea -this is a form of “church discipline” - it is in the Bible but almost never practiced
5. Verse 15 is a pivotal one when it comes to this -
- don’t associate with them (**verse 14**)
- but don’t treat them as an unbeliever but as a fellow believer (**verse 15**)
- Rea -a narrow line to walk
- Rea -they are NOT enemies but treated as FELLOW BELIEVERS
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Almost everything that Jesus taught us to do as believers requires extreme wisdom - this is just one more example
2. We are different - holy

- the world is not
 - requires we be lovingly involved but withdrawn (sometimes)
3. Most of the time we don't WANT to be different

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