**SERMON NOTES**

**The Gospel Made Visible**

**A Sermon Series on The Church & Meaningful Church Membership**

**“The Church: God’s Gathered People”**

**1 Thessalonians 5: 12-14**

**The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a local group of Christians who regularly gather in Jesus’s name to officially affirm and oversee one another’s membership in Christ and His kingdom through gospel preaching and gospel ordinances.**

**In the Bible there is a patten, understanding, and expectation that Christians will unite and join in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with a local body of believers - a church.**

**A church clearly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ off who the people of God are.**

**From the very beginning of creation, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has sought to mark off for himself a clearly identifiable people (from Adam to Jesus).**

**Jesus presumes and understands that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will know who is in the church and who is not (Matthew 18: 15-18).**

**From the earliest beginnings of the church (Acts 4:32-35) there is a clear investment and an authentic relationship with one another - a knowing of each other that required \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with the local body.**

**In 1 Corinthians 5: 9-13 there is again a distinct marking (just as in Matthew 18) of who is “in” and who is “out” - who has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with Christ and committed to His people and who has yet to do so.**

**In 1 Thessalonians 5:12, Paul turns his attention to the Thessalonian’s lives within the church. Paul instructs them on how they are to live - not with those outside - but - with those \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the church.**

**In God’s design for His church, He has given \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. In the New Testament that pattern is seen in the appointment of pastors / elders who serve the church by laboring in teaching, preaching, instruction, shepherding, caring, and urging the pursuit lives that honor Christ.**

**Although leaders in the church play an important role, Scripture teaches that the task of maintaining the wellbeing and community within the church doesn’t fall exclusively on them. Rather, it is to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_by all the members - those who are a part of the church (1 Thess. 5: 14).**

**The word of God (1 Thess. 5:14) calls believers within church to love other believers within the church by:**

**Admonishing the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Encourage the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Help the weak \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Bear in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with them all.**

**There should be no maverick Christians. Your faith journey with Jesus was never meant to be lived out alone. You simply can’t follow what God has called believers to in 1 Thess. 5:12-14 (and many others texts) if you do Christianity on an island and if you don’t make it a priority to engage with a local body of believers in attendance, participation, service, uniting and joining in meaningful membership.**

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| **church** | **meaningful membership** | **marks** | **God** | **believers** | **commitment & participation** | **identified** |
| **inside** | **leaders** | **shared** | **idle** | **fainthearted** | **weak** | **patience** |