



GROWING AND SHOWING YOUR FAITH

## SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

I Thessalonians 5:12-28

### VIBRANT CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY REQUIRES:

- I. ACTIVE and AFFIRMED leadership.
  - A. The role of leaders is not to monopolize but to multiply ministry.
  - B. Paul's description conjures up images of straining, sweating labor.
  - C. Pastoral care is parental care, emphasizing salvation of believers.
  - D. Appreciation and affection enable church to live together in peace.
- II. ENGAGED and ENCOURAGING fellowship.
  - A. Members, not just ministers, are responsible to care for church.
  - B. Difficult, demanding, disappointing people will require patience.
  - C. Jesus' followers are called to a "mutual-accountability" society.
  - D. True Christian fellowship extends beyond body to world outside.
- III. CHRIST-EXALTING, BIBLE-BASED worship.
  - A. Rejoicing in the Lord is the foundation of God-honoring worship.
  - B. Prayer and thanksgiving, even when we don't feel it, is God's will.
  - C. Listen to, meditate upon and apply God's Word to your own life.
  - D. Don't neglect the community's gathering together to praise God.
- IV. GOD-ENABLED, GRACE-FILLED living.
  - A. God is at work in us to will & to act according to his good pleasure.
  - B. No part of our lives is exempt from his purposes in our salvation.
  - C. God's faithfulness guarantees he will complete his good work in us.
  - D. We're to extend the grace we've received to all those around us.

**SUMMARY:** God's design is for EVERY believer to be a VITAL part of a vibrant Christian community.

What aspect of your life in community most needs to grow?

***"We exist to glorify God  
by enabling all people  
to become fully-devoted followers of  
the Lord Jesus Christ."***