

Texts, ESV: 1 Thessalonians 5.12-13 (verse 13, NLT); 1 Timothy 2.1-4

1 We're going to take a QUICK look at *Unity & Honor*, essentials of *The Gathering*

2 These are basic NT concepts, often underrated, but concepts with great power

i. Allow *UNITY* to overflow in our working relationships in church

a **1 Thessalonians 5.12, ESV:** "to respect," lit. to see and perceive

1 KJV "know" . . . NASB "appreciate" . . . Why is this important?

2 For a leader to be established there are 2 big factors:

a) The leader must have some type of authority, an appointment

b) The leader must gain the respect and appreciation of his people

3 Leaders can demand obedience . . . but they can't demand appreciation

* Respect and appreciation require that we take an honest look at what Christian workers are doing for us, and this is in line with the Greek language in this Passage.

b **1 Thes 5.12:** We appreciate those who are "over" us and who "admonish" us

1 Lit. They are set over us, they preside or superintend

2 Basic understanding of authority in NT . . . NOT a position, but a function

a) Authority is NOT about positions we take to lord it over others

b) Authority is a function . . . but a role by which one serves others

3 Also, our functions and roles may change from time to time . . .

a) We may have more time in one season than the next

b) We may feel a shift in our Gifts and skills to serve in new areas

* As we prepare to gather again, let's appreciate all of those who are invested in our congregation. We need a variety of people with all kinds of Gifts. Many people are keeping things running around here, waiting for your return.

c Appreciating our unique Gifts causes an overflow of *UNITY*

ii. Christian workers and leaders deserve *HONOR*

a **1 Thes 5.12-13:** "esteem them very highly," lit. give them consideration

NLT: *Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work. And live peacefully with each other.*

1 Certainly, we don't want to elevate our leaders to the point of idolatry

2 However, we should respect them for their work for the Kingdom

ILL. We must respect Christian workers, but also leaders in general. At times, our own children have reminded us of this. *If your youngest son starts talking down about some of your leaders . . . you cannot blame it on other kids at school or church . . . if you're in quarantine.* As you may have guessed, this has happened to me recently. I had to ask

my son for forgiveness and pray for our leaders. This Scripture came up in one of our readings at that time: **1 Timothy 2.1-4** . . . *Coincidence?*

b **1 Thes 5.13**: Paul adds, “Be at peace among yourselves.”

1 This is a command, We simply cannot let division reign

2 “Be at peace,” active v.: we are to make, cultivate, and maintain peace

3 NT Greek “peace” rests on the Hebrew meaning of peace or *Shalom*

a) *Shalom* is the glue that holds the nation of Israel together

b) *Shalom* is the basis for community, a wholeness

c We cultivate *UNITY* and *HONOR*. Without them, community unravels.

Invitation: How can we build *UNITY* and *HONOR*? Let’s start with prayer

1 Remember in God’s Kingdom, the greatest Leaders are the most humble Servants

2 So anything you’re doing for God is important, It’s noticed by God, Let’s pray:

“A Leader’s Prayer”

Leadership is hard to define.

Lord, let us be the ones to define it with justice.

Leadership is like a handful of water.

Lord, let us be the people to share it with those who thirst.

Leadership is not about watching and correcting.

Lord, let us remember it is about listening and connecting.

Leadership is not about telling people what to do.

Lord, let us find out what people want.

Leadership is less about the love of power,

and more about the power of love.

Lord, as we continue to undertake the role of leader let us be

affirmed by the servant leadership we witness in your son Jesus.

Let us walk in the path He has set and let those who will, follow.

Let our greatest passion be compassion.

Our greatest strength love.

Our greatest victory the reward of peace.

In leading let us never fail to follow.

In loving let us never fail.¹

3 My NOTES are FREE online, you can see this prayer: patheos.com/blogs/jaredingle

4 See you in person at *Long Lake Friends Church* next Sunday, May 31st, 10 am

¹ “Leadership Prayers: A Leader’s Prayer,” *Xavier University’s Center for Mission and Identity*, accessed May 20, 2020, www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/leadership-prayers