

Keeping a Positive Spirit

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. **Philippians 4:8***

*as a man thinks in his heart so is he. **Proverbs 23:7 (KJV)***

*Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. **Colossians 3:15***

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. **Colossians 3:16***

*And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. **Colossians 3:17***

Developing a Positive Attitude towards...

1. Paul encouraged a positive attitude

towards _____.

*Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. **1 Thessalonians 5:12***

Difficult reasons to respect Spiritual Leaders

1. Contrary to our _____ nature
2. So many leaders have violated our trust
3. At times, they admonish and _____ us

*“I tell you the truth,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown. I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. **Luke 4:24-25***

*Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.” **Luke 4:26-27***

*All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him down the cliff. But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way. **Luke 4:28-30***

When somebody admonishes us

our first reaction is _____ not respect.

4. We are also _____ in different fields

**We respect the _____ , even though
the person who holds that office is imperfect.**

*The men said, “This is the day the Lord spoke of when he said to you, ‘I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.’ ” Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul’s robe. **1 Samuel 24:4***

*Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. He said to his men, “The Lord forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the Lord’s anointed, or lift my hand against him; for he is the anointed of the Lord.”
1 Samuel 24:5-6*

*Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. **Hebrews 13:17***

*Do not entertain an accusation against an elder unless it is brought by two or three witnesses. **1 Timothy 5:19***

2. Paul urges a positive attitude toward other _____.

Developing a Positive Attitude towards...

*And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else. **1 Thessalonians 5:14-15***

*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. **Ephesians 4:32***

*Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: **Philippians 2:5***

*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. **Colossians 3:12***

*Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. **Colossians 3:13-14***

*Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly **Colossians 3:15-16***

3. Paul urges a positive attitude toward all _____.

Developing a Positive Attitude towards...

*Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18***

It's not your circumstance, it's your attitude.

*I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. **Philippians 4:11-12***

*I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength. **Philippians 4:12-13***

Suffering is inevitable. Misery is _____.

How to Keep a Positive Attitude

*Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18***

How to Keep a Positive Attitude

Do not put out the Spirit's fire; 1 Thessalonians 5:19

do not treat prophecies with contempt. 1 Thessalonians 5:20

Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil.

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. Genesis 50:20

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

It is not your circumstance, it's your attitude.

Suffering is inevitable, but misery is your _____.

Key: spiritual leaders, independent, correct, resistance, leaders, office, believers, circumstances, optional, choice