



Advice to the Church Concerning Their Public Worship.

A Thought: When you give advice...Be aware of the consequences!

When you give advice you sometimes pay a great price.

Advice and advising someone can be rewarding or detrimental to a relationship.

Someone has said, “If you are giving advice to me, give it only when I ask for it...or you may never get the opportunity to advise me again!”

**In Paul’s case, he knew that his advice was for the good of the congregation.
But...did the church at Thessalonica know it?**

One of the most advantageous gifts Paul had is that he knew he had the Holy Spirit on his side. You can’t go wrong if the Holy Spirit is the One who prompts the advice to an individual or congregation.

One of the amazing things about being human is our wonderful capacity to communicate, our ability to understand words. The portion of our brains that is dedicated to language is huge. Learning to speak is one of the most complicated things we ever learn to do. God specifically designed us to be able to communicate both with each other and with him so we can be in relationship with each other. It is no wonder that Jesus is called “the Word” ([John 1:1](#)), because he is God in the flesh, God communicating verbally and in action with us.

1 Thessalonians 5: 19-22, “Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹ but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²² reject every kind of evil.”

Quenching the Spirit:

- When the word “quench” is used in Scripture, it is speaking of suppressing fire.
- The Holy Spirit is a fire dwelling in each believer.
- He wants to express Himself in our actions and attitudes.
- When believers do not allow the Spirit to be seen in our actions, when we do what we know is wrong, we suppress or quench the Spirit. We do not allow the Spirit to reveal Himself the way that He wants to.

Seven Ways in Which We Can Quench the Holy Spirit:

1. *We quench the Holy Spirit when we rely decisively on any resource other than the Holy Spirit for anything we do in life and ministry.*

2. *We quench the Spirit whenever we diminish his personality and speak of him as if he were only an abstract power or source of divine energy.*
3. *We quench the Spirit whenever we suppress or legislate against his work of imparting spiritual gifts and ministering to the church through them.*
4. *We quench the Spirit whenever we create a sanctimonious structure in our corporate gatherings and worship services that do not permit spontaneity or the special leading of the Spirit.*
5. *We quench the Spirit whenever we despise prophetic utterances.*
6. *We quench the Spirit whenever we diminish his activity that alerts and awakens us to the glorious and majestic truth that we are truly the children of God (Romans 8:15–16; Galatians 4:4–7).*
7. *We quench the Spirit whenever we suppress, or legislate against, or instill fear in the hearts of people regarding the legitimate experience of heartfelt emotions and affections in worship*

Do not despise prophecies (treating prophecies with contempt):

We recognize that the Lord speaks to and through His people today, and we learn to be open to His voice. Of course, we always *test* prophecies (following the command to **test all things**), but we do not **despise** prophecies.

Note: It is very possible that prophesy was being despised because individuals were abusing the gift. There were idlers among the Thessalonians ([1 Thessalonians 4:11-12](#)), perhaps who spiritualized their idleness with prophecy. There were date-setters and end-times speculators among the Thessalonians ([2 Thessalonians 2:1-5](#)), perhaps who backed up their speculations with supposed prophetic authority.

Test all things; hold fast what is good:

- Evil and deception can show itself even in a spiritual setting, so it is important for Christians to **test all things**.
- When the **test** has been made (according to the standard of God's Word and the discernment of spirit among the leaders), we then **hold fast to what is good**.

Note: Between the time Paul last saw the Thessalonians and the writing of this letter, he had spent time in Berea ([Acts 17:10-12](#)). The Berean Christians were of a noble character because they heard Paul's preaching and diligently searched the Scriptures to see if what he said was true. Paul wanted the Thessalonians to have more of the heart and mind of the Bereans.

Reject every form of evil: When the testing is made, any aspect of evil must be rejected. This includes evil that may come with a spiritual image.

"The term *form* (*eidous*) literally means 'that which is seen,' the external appearance. It points to the external form in which evil presents itself... They are to shun evil in whatever form or appearance it may present itself." (Hiebert)

Closing of the Letter:

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24, “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.”

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely: *The idea behind the word sanctify is “to set apart” – to make something different and distinct, breaking old associations and forming a new association. For example, a dress is a dress; but a wedding dress is sanctified – set apart for a special, glorious purpose. God wants us to be set apart to Him.*

The emphasis here is on **completely**: Its basic connotation is ‘wholly attaining the end, reaching the intended goal; no part being left unreached.

“Himself” sanctify you:

- Paul made it clear that sanctification is God’s work in us.
- He puts this emphasis in the words **Himself**, in **be preserved**, in **He who calls you is faithful**, and in **who will do it**.
- Paul never intended that the Thessalonian church members *do* those things mentioned in their own power.

More Christians are defeated on account of self-reliance than on account of Satanic attack.

Paul is saying, “I have been urging you to do certain things, *but* it is only in God’s strength that you will be able to do them.” (Morris)

May your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless:

- ✓ “The SPIRIT (*pneuma*) is the highest and distinctive part of man, the immortal.”

“whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved”: We may receive this order as inspired. God intends there to be a hierarchy within the human person, ordered first with the spirit, then with the soul, and finally with the body. Soul is sometimes deemed “a person’s total self.” It is the Spirit of the Almighty within us who gives approval for our soul to be in heaven.

God designed the human to live after the order of **spirit, soul, and body** instead of *body, soul, and spirit*.

A request for prayer and a greeting given.

1 Thessalonians 5:25-26, “Brothers and sisters, pray for us. ²⁶ Greet all God’s people with a holy kiss.”

Brethren, pray for us: Paul was an apostle, and the Thessalonian church was made up of young Christians. Paul still believed he needed their prayers, so he simply asked, “**pray for us**.” Paul could not operate under any other requirements...Prayer was the key for any progress in his or any other ministry.

Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss: The idea is that Paul wants those who *read* the letter to **greet** all the Christians in Thessalonica on his behalf. If he were there in person, he would **greet all the brethren with a holy kiss** himself, but since he was not there, he would send the greeting through this letter.

The “holy kiss” apparently was a social custom at the time. Any culturally acceptable form of greeting, whether a kiss on each cheek, a hug, a hearty handshake, or whatever, that conveys warmth and symbolizes unity would likely be acceptable to Paul

Conclusion to the letter.

1 Thessalonians 5:27-28, *“I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.”*

I charge you by the Lord: “Charge” = Important. Paul wanted to make sure that the church heard the letter first-hand, and not through intermediaries who might misstate his message.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you: Nearly all Paul’s letters begin and end with the idea of **grace**. This is also true of almost everything God has to say to His people.

Grace is God’s unmerited favor, His bestowal of love and acceptance on us because of who He is and what Jesus has done.

“Whatever God has to say to us – and in all the New Testament letters there are things that search the heart and make it quake – And...it all begins and ends with grace.” Morris

Grace means we can stop working for His love and start receiving it.

Receive God’s Grace Today!

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