



2 Thessalonians 3:10, “For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.”

ANOTHER COMMAND...NOT A REQUEST. IT IS A “MUST DO” INSTEAD OF A “SHOULD DO.”

Difference: Galatians 6:1, “Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit **should** restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.”

“If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat”:

- **Simple command:** Paul says that if anyone **will not work** (instead of *cannot work*), **neither shall he eat**.
- **God’s plan** is to provide for our needs through our work.
- Since God is able to provide through our needs in any manner imaginable, it means something that He has chosen (for the most part) to meet our needs through work.
- **This is part of God’s character**, because He is a busy God and always at work.

Someone has said, “Every evening I turn my worries over to God. He’s going to be up all night anyway.”

The psalmist writes, “He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.” Psalm 121:3-4.

Note: When Paul commands the faithful Christians to withdraw from the idle-disruptive Christians, he doesn’t intend that withdrawal to be permanent (We will see this again in verses 14-15). Instead, he hopes to get the attention of those who are idle and disruptive—and to encourage them to start working and to stop meddling. At that point, they can be restored to the community of faith—which then will be harmonious rather than troubled.

2 Thessalonians 3:11-13, “For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread. But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good.”

Let's break it down:

“For we hear...” Paul, of all the writers in the New Testament, knew that it is a travesty to base specific conclusions on “hear-say.” Evidently several people of great integrity had told Paul that there were some in the church at Thessalonica that were disturbing the church members by questioning authority, making distracting and untruthful statements, and acting in a disorderly manner. This included laziness and causing questionable reasoning for their actions. They were spreading rumors and making accusations that were proved to be untrue.

You know Paul...He was an “in your face” kind of guy when it had to do with questionable actions on a church member’s part. Actually, it was probably more than one in the church that were spreading rumors and questioning authority.

Sin multiplies when it is not addressed at the beginning of an evil or improper action.

Paul addressed the improper actions in a direct way...but, a loving way.

“There are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner: The idleness of some had become a source of sin. It was not only because of the work that they *didn't do*, but also because of the harm they *did do* with their idle time **(but are busybodies)**.

Some theologians think that perhaps these **“busybodies”** thought that if Jesus was coming soon, it made no sense to work. It would then be easy for them to intrude into the lives of others and take advantage of Christian generosity.

However, I think it is more than that: “It is the inactive drones whom Paul is berating – those who live by the sweat of others while they themselves do nothing for the common good to help the human race.

“Drones” definition here: a stingless male bee (as of the honeybee) that has the role of mating with the queen and does not gather nectar or pollen: one that lives on the labors of others: parasite.

“Now those who are such we command: With authority, **through our Lord Jesus.**” Paul commanded these **busybodies** to **work**, to get out of the business of others (**in quietness**) and to provide for their own needs instead of expecting other Christians to provide for them.

Note: The early church did provide for the truly needy among them, but only after being certain that they were truly needy and after putting them to work for the church ([1 Timothy 5:3-16](#)).

“Paul forbids (not a suggestion) the Thessalonians to encourage their laziness by indulging it.”

What happens if it is not addressed appropriately and expediently: People who do work and provide for their families see that their hard work and prosperity is going to their neighbors (others) who desire the same without working.”

It was happening then and it is happening now. Taking from the “haves” and giving to the “have-nots” (reparations) will eventually tear down a democracy and a nation. From the beginning, God expected his most loved creation (mankind) to tend the garden (work).

The United States gives billions of dollars to foreign aid, the poor, the hurting, etc... However, it is never enough for those whose hearts have not been changed and quickened by the Holy Spirit. A “Spiritual Awakening” is the only thing that will change the world.

“Do not grow weary in doing good:” Basically...Give eagerly and generously.

This was indeed proper encouragement for those who were working as they should. Few things are more wearying than seeing others take advantage of Christian generosity. But we should never let the manipulations and sins of some discourage us from doing good to the truly needy.

The older King James Version has this, *be not weary in well doing*. Many people are good at *well-talking*, but there is not enough of simple *well doing*.

“It takes so much self-denial to keep doing good” – but it is worth it when we consider the reward.”

2 Thessalonians 3:14-15, “And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet do not count him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.”

“And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle:” Paul elaborates on what it means to *withdraw* from a brother as mentioned in 3:6.

Take note of that person...and do not keep company with him: With the purpose of causing him to **be ashamed**.

The purpose is not to make him an **enemy** of the church, but through the severity of the withdrawal from fellowship, to warn and **admonish** him as an erring or wayward **brother**.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11, "or... do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men, nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

"Stepping on toes doesn't just happen while dancing."

Praise God for the forgiving heart of a loving Savior and God!

