

ADMONISH THE UNRULY

1 Thess.5:13-15 contains a list of 7 characteristics of a healthy church. They are listed by seven present imperatives (commands). We will study each of the following 7 characteristics of a health church.

- Live in Peace (5:13)
- **Admonish the Unruly** (5:14a)
- Encourage the Fainthearted (5:14b)
- Help the Weak (5:14c)
- Be Patient with all men (5:14d)
- See that no one Retaliates (5:15a)
- Seek after Good for all men (5:15b)

The second characteristic of a healthy church involves the command – “admonish (noutheteo/ p.a.impv.2pl) the unruly (ataktos).”

This lesson will study 6 aspects of ADMONISH THE UNRULY as a characteristic of a healthy church.

1. The second command introduces the first of four problems causing disharmony within the church at Thessalonica – unruliness (5:14a).

The Greek word for unruly is (ataktos). Ataktos consists of the alpha privative and a form of the verb tasso. “*ataktos* – it was especially a military term, denoting, not keeping rank, insubordinate.” (Vines Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, pg.174).

Unruliness refers to an insubordinate attitude towards either/or the position or policies of divine delegated authority.

“*ataktos* – it can also mean to evade one’s obligations; to act irresponsibly; to act without discipline.” (TD of NT, pg.47- tasso)

2. As Christians, we are charged to NOT associate socially with any unruly believers.

“Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep aloof from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we *did not act in an undisciplined manner* among you.” (2 Thess.3: 6-7)

3. Divine delegated authority has the responsibility to admonish the unruly under their authority.

The Greek word for admonish is (*noutheteo/* to put in the mind/ nous tithemi). It means to put correction in the mind of the unruly by instruction (5:14).

Admonish has in view the noting of the things that are wrong and then instructing how to correct them.

It is a form of warning discipline (Heb.12:5-11). The following three categories of divine discipline are listed in Heb.12:5-11).

- **Warning** (Heb. 12:5; 2 Tim.3:16-17/ read)
- **Severe** (Heb. 12:6)
- **Sin unto death** (Heb. 12:9; 1 John 5:16)

4. Admonishing the unruly is an important part of parenting (Eph.6:4; 1 Cor.10:11-12).

“Eli remonstrated with his (unruly) sons, 1 Sam.2:24, and failed to admonish them, 1 Sam.3:13.” (Vines, pg.13)
[1 Sam.2:12-16,22-25/ read] (Remonstrate refers to simply offering protest – “please don’t do it.”)

“For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons made themselves contemptible, and he failed to restrain them.” (1 Sam.3:13)

5. “The different between ‘admonish’ and ‘teach’ seems to be that, whereas the former (admonish) has mainly in view the things that are wrong and call for warning, the latter (teach) has to do chiefly with the impartation of positive truth.” (Vines, pg.13)

“Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom *teaching and admonishing* one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” (Col.3:16)
(1 Cor.4:14-17; Rom.15:15)

6. One group the church is instructed to admonish are those who want handouts without working.

“*ataktos* – characterizes a man as one who sets himself outside the necessary and given order.” (TD of NT, pg.47)

The NIV sometimes translate it (idleness). However, the emphasis is an irresponsible attitude towards the obligation of work (Gen.3:17-19; 1 Thess.4:11-12; 2 Thess.3:10-12).

“For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order; if (1cc) anyone will not work, neither let him eat. For we hear that some among you are *leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all*, but acting like *busybodies*. Now such persons **we command and exhort** in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread.” (2 Thess.3:10-12)

Busybody is used as an oxymoron.

7. The responsibility of the pastor-teacher is to teach and admonish the unruly through the wisdom of the Scriptures (Acts 20:17-32).

“We proclaim Him, *admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom*, so that we may present everyone perfect (spiritual mature) in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all His energy, which so powerfully works in me.” (Col.1:28-29)

“*Warn (admonish)* a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that have nothing to do with him. You may be sure that such a man is warped and sinful; he is self-condemned.” (Titus 3:10-11)

“If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of him. Do not associate with him, in order that he may feel ashamed. Yet do not regard him as an enemy, but *warn (admonish)* him as a brother.” (2 Thess.3:14-15)