

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS

“How many times have we said to someone or have had someone say to us, ‘mind your own business?’”

In 1 Thessalonians 4:1-18, Paul gives practical doctrinal advice to teach spiritual advancing believers “how to walk to please God (as you actually do walk).”

We will list this practical doctrinal advice by the following four categories of problems within the church.

- Sexual promiscuity (1 Thess.4:1-8)
- Love of the brethren (1 Thess.4:9-10)
- **Mind your own business** (1 Thess.4:11-12)
- Grieving properly over the dead (1 Thess.4:13-18)

Today’s lesson will study five aspects of Paul’s practical doctrinal advice regarding
“Mind your own business.”

1. Paul opens chapter four with the primary divine purpose of correcting these four problems within the Thessalonian church.

(1 Thess.4:1) “Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, **that** (hina) [divine purpose of classroom teaching], as you received from us instruction as (kathos) [comparative adverb] to **how you ought to walk and please God** just as (kathos) [you actually do walk], **that** (hina) [divine purpose of application of the doctrinal teaching] you may excel still more.”

The Greek word for walk is peripateo (p.a.infin) and (kai) to please is aresko (p.a.infin). However the two ‘**that**’ [hina + subj / divine purpose] clauses belong to the word excel (perisseuo / p.a.subj.2pl).

2. We see Paul’s method of ICE (Isagogics, Category, and Exegesis) teaching by his use of the Greek grammar to develop his doctrinal principles.

For example, he used the present infinitive to make the following four practical doctrinal points regarding “minding your own business” in (1 Thess.4:11).

- Make it your ambition (philotimeomai / p.m.infin)
- Lead a quiet life (hesuchazo / p.a.infin)
- Mind your own business (prasso / p.a.infin)
- Work with your hands just as we commanded you (ergazomai / p.m.infin)

3. He continued into (1 Thess.4:12) with two present subjunctives which he used to establish divine purposes for walking to please God by “minding your own business.”

- **First divine purpose:** “**that** (hina) you may behave (peripateo / p.a.subj 2pl) properly (euschemonos) towards outsiders.”
- **Second divine purpose:** (**that**) “and not (medeis / not any) be (echo / p.a.subj 2pl) [have] in any need (chreia).”

4. **In the second letter to the Thessalonians, Paul is still exhorting them on the problem of “minding your own business” (2 Thess.3:11-12).**

He is still using Greek grammar to establish doctrinal principles. This time Paul used the present participle.

(1 Thess.3:11) “For we hear that some among you are leading (peripateo / p.a.ptc.aplm) [walk] an **undisciplined life** (ataktos), doing no work (ergazomai / p.m.ptc.aplm) at all, **but acting like busybodies** (periergazomai / p.m.ptc.aplm).” (1 Tim.5:13)

They had stopped working as they waited on the return of the Lord. However, they were **acting like busybodies** while waiting on the return of the Lord. Paul sees this as misuse of time, energy, and activity of an undisciplined life.

Undisciplined Life: “Now **such persons** we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ **to work** (ergazomai / p.m.ptc.nplm) in (hina) [divine purpose] **quiet fashion** (hesuchia) and eat (esthio / p.a.subj.3pl) their own bread.” (1 Thess.3:12)

5. **Peter also taught the doctrine of “mind your own business.”**

(1 Pet.5:15-16) “By no means let any of you suffer (pascho / p.a.impv.3ps) [deserved] **as (pos) [comparative particle]** a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a **troublesome meddler** (allotriepiskopos / predicate nominative); **but (de)** [contrast] if (1cc) [and it’s true] anyone suffer (undeserved) as (pos) a Christian, let him not feel ashamed, but in that name let him glorify God.”

Troublesome meddler (predicate nominative) will experience **deserved suffering**.

However, the spiritually advancing Church Age Believer (CAB) will experience **undeserved suffering** for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ (Rom.1:14-16).

If you must mind somebody’s business other than your own, MAKE IT THE FATHER’S as did Jesus!

(Luke 2:49) “And he said to them, ‘Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not now that I had to be in My Father’s business.”