

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Strengthening Your Relationships at Church
Until He Comes | 1 Thessalonians — Week 10
1 Thessalonians 5:11-15

ICEBREAKER: How have you been humbled? Describe the details.

OVERVIEW: The local church is the hope of the world. It is God's means of accomplishing His purpose of world redemption. But the church is not a building, it is a people. It is a group of people who are committed to one another for the purposes of worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, and evangelism. Since the church is a group of people, it is only as strong as the relationships therein. It will be healthy and effective and productive to the degree that the members treat each other right. If the relationships are healthy and strong, the church will be healthy and strong. If the relationships are weak and dysfunctional, the church will be weak and dysfunctional. The Bible gives us many instructions on how to relate to each other in the church. In this discussion we will go deeper with how to strengthen our relationships in the church.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. How long have you attended Church Acadiana and what has it meant to you?
3. Why is the local church important?
4. What is the connection between the relationships in the church and the effectiveness of the church?

5. What causes relationships in the church to break down?
6. Read Colossians 3:12-17.
 - a. What does it mean to bear with one another (v. 13)?
 - b. What does verse 13 say about forgiveness? What does forgiveness look like in the context of the local church?
 - c. What does verse 15 say about peace? What is peace in the context of a local church?
6. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11-15.
 - a. What does it mean to encourage others, and how can you encourage others at church (see v. 11)?
 - b. What does it mean to build each other up, and how can you build others up in the church (see v. 11)?
 - c. How can you better support the pastor (see vs. 12-13)?

The Last Word: "The mark of an effective church is not how many people come but how many people live differently as a result of having been there."

