

May 17, 2026
II Thessalonians 3:6-18
“Church Discipline, The Necessity Of The Hard Thing Done Biblically”

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

“Disorderly, Troublemakers, Busybodies. Reprimand, Require, Restore”
“A Call To Action For The Whole Church Family”

Doctrinal error in the church regarding the day of the Lord had led to disorderly conduct within the church. Paul will now address this problem head on.

Paul had already given warning to those who were idle in **I Thessalonians 5:14**. Apparently not heeded. Now level two, separate yourselves from them. This separation would highlight the seriousness of their error. Paul reminds them that they are your brothers and sisters, not your enemies. This is done on an individual basis, be sure you do not find yourself being a mob leader. Each faithful person should individually mark out the disobedient, not a public shaming before the congregation. This does not mean to break all contact with the person. Patiently admonish him to forsake the error of his ways.

It is generally agreed that such a person not be allowed to partake of The Lord’s Supper until repentance has come. It is better to please God than man, see **Acts 5:29**.

Support of the spiritual leaders by the church is legitimate, see **Galatians 6:6; I Timothy 5:17**. Christians should support the needy, not go around mooching off of others, no workie, no eatie. Let them go hungry, then they will be forced to go to work. If a person in the fellowship cannot physically work or does not have an opportunity to work, that is a different story.

Live and work with quietude, not noisily or in disorderliness. The entitlements going around today say, give me yours, not biblical!

“Assessed negatively, peace is the absence of conflict. But Paul’s prayer involved much more than a temporary truce in the conflicts troubling the church. In Paul’s Jewish heritage peace was a broad concept encompassing both the absence of conflict and the presence of well-being.” *Michael Martin*

Application: The Lord loves His church. He gave His life for her. When problems arise internally the effectiveness and peace of the fellowship dissipates quickly. God’s people must love the offender/s enough to confront them gently yet firmly for the good of the church. This is not a license to go after people with wrong motives or in a vigilante style. Like the text reads, they are often of the brethren. Do the hard thing, but do it with this statement by *Thomas Manton*, a puritan writer, “There is none so tender to others as they which have received mercy themselves, for they know how gently God hath dealt with them.”