

Patience unto Peace

Living out 1 Thessalonians 5:14 within the Covenant Family of God
(Part 1)



Sermon Goal

That we would learn to love one another wisely, as Christ has loved us.



Sermon Text

1 Thessalonians 5:14

→ “And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.”



Big Idea

Wise love is flexible and tailor-made. We must know a person truly if we are to love the person wisely.

(1) Wise Love in Context

(1) Covenantal Family—The church is the covenant family of God. We have been brought into covenant with God in Christ and through Him we have been brought into covenant with one another. We are covenant brothers and sisters under one covenant Father in one covenant family. Until we approach one another with this kind of bond in love, and commitment, and covenant, we will not be able to work out the wise love of 1 Th 5:14. We will admonish from the hip, we will encourage from a distance, we will help for a limited time only.

(2) Comprehensive Shalom—Paul begins and ends this letter by directing them to the God of peace—He has begun His work of peace and He will one day bring it to completion. As His covenant family, we are called to partner with Him in this mission, and one of the ways we do that is by living out 1 Th 5:14 with one another.

(2) Wise Love in Definition

- “**Idle**”: “to be out of step and going one’s own way, disorderly, insubordinate; to being without socially recognized constraint, undisciplined.”
- “**Admonish**”: “to counsel about avoidance of an improper course of conduct, warn, instruct.”
- “**Fainthearted**”: “faint-hearted, discouraged.” “Small-souled.”
- “**Encourage**”: “to console, cheer up someone...esp. in connection with death or other tragic events.”
- “**Weak**”: “pert. to suffering from a debilitating illness, sick, ill; pert. to experiencing some incapacity or limitation, weak.”
- “**Help**”: “to have a strong attachment to someone or something, cling to, hold fast to, be devoted to.”

(3) Wise Love in Action

(1) Wise Love Wears Many Faces—Some people call for love with a firm hand, others for love with a soft hand; some people call for love with a closed hand, others for love with an open hand. It is love that guides us at every point, but wise love takes on many faces.

(2) Wise Love Requires Humble Diagnostics—(1) Avoid Assumptions; (2) Ask Questions.



Critical Action

If we are to love another wisely, the place to start is to stop!

Reflection Questions

- What does it mean that Mercy Hill Church is your covenant family? Have you been living in light of this? Why does 1 Th 5:14 require it?
- Redefine Paul’s terms in your own words. How does the face of love called for fit the person’s need? Have you experienced being loved wisely in each of these ways?
- Have you ever been wrong in your assumptions about another person? Have you ever tried to help and found you actually hurt? Has someone ever done this to you? Explain.

