



C O N T R A S T

A STUDY IN 1 THESSALONIANS

Marks of a Healthy Community November 10, 2024 | 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15 Questions for Study and Group Discussion

*** Before you begin, please read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15*

1. **Icebreaker:** Think of healthy community you've experienced in the past (this could be a team or club you were part of, your family, a group of friends, etc.). What was it about this community that made it healthy?
2. What makes experiencing healthy community difficult?
3. Why is healthy community worth fighting for?
4. Make a list of "marks of a healthy community" from 1 Thess 5:12-15.
5. What stands out to you most from this list? Why?
6. In v. 12, what qualities should characterize Christian leaders? Why are these important?
7. Think of an area where you have influence — maybe an area where you're serving as a Difference Maker, or friends that you influence. How do you (or how can you) embody these values in v. 12, in the relationships where you have influence?
8. Look closely at v. 14. How does Paul tell us to interact with different kinds of people that we engage with in community?
9. With the previous question still in mind, why is it important to know where someone is coming from — as we engage with them in Christian community?
10. Paul mentions the importance of peace (v. 13), patience (v. 14), and pursuing the good of others (v. 15). What is one way you can apply these virtues in your relationships this week?
11. "The members of a healthy Christian community are others-centered and care about the growth of others." How does 1 Thess 5:12-15 support this statement? Is there anything else you would add to this statement, based on what you've read in 1 Thess 5:12-15?
12. What other questions or comments do you have about what you've looked at in the Bible today?
13. What was your biggest take-away from the message? Why?
14. **Challenge:** Identify one way this passage is challenging or encouraging you. Who can you tell about what you're learning this coming week?