



General Guidance for Small Community Leaders & Church Family Members –

Please watch the intro video to the series: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-seW6Ywq0nM>

During this year of growth, we have been taught that we need to cultivate an environment for growth. This cannot begin with any 'external' factors, but growth must start from within. We can't put fruits of the spirit into our lives: the fruits will grow and develop as we allow God to cultivate growth from within us. Jesus did what he did because of WHO he was. We want there to be integrity between our inner life, and the things we say and do. What is outside flows from what is within, so that we live out of the OVERFLOW.

Gathering & Date – The 10, 1 July 2018

Title – How to Care for The Family

Speaker – Roberto Elvira

Reading –

1 Thessalonians 5: 10-22

¹⁰ He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Final Instructions

¹² Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. ¹³ Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. ¹⁴ And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. ¹⁵ Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else.

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹ but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²² reject every kind of evil.

Main message of this talk– HOW TO CARE FOR THE FAMILY

Paul's two letters to the Thessalonians were written within a short time of each other. Although written to the same church, the letters are different in atmosphere and tone although dealing with the same subject. The first letter is very warm, reflecting Paul's personal concern for the church. However, the second letter is distant and sharp in its tone.

The believers had misunderstood the teaching they had received about the Lord's Second coming, that is why Paul writes that Jesus' return will be unexpected, "*like a thief in the night*", total surprise, with no warning. If they keep watching, they will not be surprised.

In spite of its immaturity, the young church managed to survive. Paul finishes his first letter with seventeen commands in ten verses (10-22 vv.). These commands must not be seen as a burden,

but as a way to protect the Christian community. He is certain that if they keep these commands the Christian family will survive the pressures.

QUESTIONS

- 1- Why is it crucial to keep in mind the second coming of Jesus?
- 2- Describe what “children of the light” looks like and how do your decisions differ from someone who is not in the “light”.
- 3- What is so important about encouraging each other to create a stable community? Have you received encouragement that has helped to shape you
- 4- Why is it important to support those in leadership?
- 5- Why do we find being patient with the timid, weak, or idle so difficult? (v14)?
- 6- In what ways is it possible to “Quench the Spirit?”
- 7- Finally, Paul is asking the Thessalonians for prayer. What does this say about Paul’s character and what can we learn from this request?