

# “Your Brother’s Keeper”

*Everyday Saints* – Jeffrey D. Burr

1 Thessalonians 5:14-15

November 11, 2018

# Interpersonal Dynamics

- Receive counsel humbly (v. 12-13).
- Give counsel faithfully (v. 14-15).

# Spiritual Followers

1. Carefully seek to build up the faith of your fellow believers.
  - a. Warn those who are out of line.

*“Reproof is unavoidable. God’s Word demands it when a brother falls into open sin. The practice of discipline in the congregation begins in the smallest circles. Where defection from God’s Word in doctrine or life imperils the family fellowship and with it the whole congregation, the word of admonition and rebuke must be ventured.*

*Nothing can be more cruel than the tenderness that consigns another to his sin. Nothing can be more compassionate than the severe rebuke that calls a brother back from the path of sin. It is a ministry of mercy, an ultimate offer of genuine fellowship...”* (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

# Mutual Responsibility

1. Carefully seek to build up the faith of your fellow believers.
  - a. Warn those who are out of line.
  - b. Comfort the fragile.
  - c. Assist the weak.

# Mutual Responsibility

2. Recognize that spiritual formation will take time and effort.

*“Within the fellowship of the local church, we find all kinds of people. Many of them are, by nature, quite incompatible. They would never be found grouped together anywhere else....With so many and varied natural differences, and with each person at a different stage of spiritual development, no wonder Paul calls for ‘long-suffering toward all men.’” (John Philips)*



# Mutual Responsibility

2. Recognize that spiritual formation will take time and effort.
  - a. Do not retaliate.
  - b. Seek to do good.