

- This section continues in the directives of Christian ethics, how to live out the Christian life until Jesus' return
- At this point Paul "urges" the people in regards to their relationship with their leaders within the church
- This is the kind of message that at first feels self-serving, but it is my responsibility to exegete and apply the text as is

A Basic Description of These Men – v.12

1.) **Those who labor**

- Gk. koipiao – work hard to the point of weariness; identified by Jesus as "laborers" in the harvest – Lk10:2
- In what is their labor? "among" (in, within) the people of God
- How do they accomplish this? (1.) prayer – Col4:12 (2.) the Word and teaching – 1Tim5:17
- But these are the means, not the end; the labor is for the joy of His people – 2Cor1:24
- Then the ultimate end is God receiving glory, as His people treasure Him and live in satisfaction of Him above all

2.) **Those who govern**

- The NKJV translates this "rule"; I have changed it here to a word I think better reflects the meaning though rule is a proper translation, it has a flavor of negativity I am trying to avoid (the rule of tyranny)
- Gk. proistaymi – manage, care for, give help, maintain
- "in the Lord" with the Lord's help and by the Lord's rule (1Tim5:17) by word and doctrine
- Not submission to lordship, but their service as a slave (Mt20:25ff Jn13)

3.) **Those who admonish**

- Gk. noutheteo – instruct, teach, warn (Col1:28)
- This does not negate the work of God's people in this regards [next week] (Rom15:14 Col3:16)
- One thing that keeps me from using this text in a self serving way is the conviction it brings, and high responsibility
- *This ministry is to be labor to the point of exhaustion, for the joy of the flock, through prayer and the Word, as they submit to your serving them as a slave for God's glory*
- This is the shepherd's responsibility, and for those of you interested in the ministry of the Word this is the task

The Christian's Responsibility to Such Men – v.12-13

1.) **Know them**

- Gk. oida – to know, understand, perceive, learn, be acquainted with, remember; not to just know "who they are"
- Understand what their work is, call them to it, submit to it, be thankful for it
- Even more, to know "them" – it is not only their responsibility to know you, but you to know them
- Do not view them as somehow "special" in a way that causes distance and separation

2.) **Esteem them**

- Gk. heygeomai – making a decision after weighing the facts; consider, think, have an opinion
- Gk. huperekperissou – with all earnestness, very highly - With love – the Christ-like of 1Cor13:4-7
- Because of their work – think about what they are trying to do, and the results of their admonishments
- Even when they tell you hard and difficult things, if you believe they are for you then receive it in love
- Things not commanded – unquestioning obedience or idolatrous dependence

A Primary Way to Honor such men – v.13

- By being at peace among yourselves; not a false or pretended peace, but a deep peace through relationships
- Relationships marked by confession of sin, forgiveness, humility, service - Romans 14:17

- ***Such men are a great gift of the Lord Jesus in love and for the joy of His church – Eph4:8***

- Pray that such men we will be, and will always be as long as this local church shall last
- I commit, by God's grace, to pursue this above all else

- ***Such a people are a great gift of the Lord Jesus in love for the joy of His servants – Phil4:1***

- I am eternally grateful for the bless of you; I have heard so many sad stories, so many heartbreaks