

Thank You Notes: Building Each Other Up

Part 2 - Thanking Those Who Inspire You

11-1-15

1 Thessalonians 2 - After Paul plants the church in Thessalonica, he moves on to missionary activity in other cities, but sends Timothy back to Thessalonica when he hears they are having doubts, questions, and difficulties.

Question 1: What is your customary response when you encounter difficulties, questions are raised, and doubts are stirred? Encourage Home Group participants in your safe setting for sharing.

Examples: Control? Check out? Blow up? Complain? Blame?

Question 2: What biblical connection from Hebrews 13:17 and Exodus 20:12 was Ted emphasizing to better understand how to live under authority?

Answer: *The importance of living under authority.*

Question 3: What illustrations did Ted draw upon to demonstrate opposition to living under authority?

Answer: *The View morning TV show: "I don't want anyone telling me what to do." and An unruly or defiant child.*

Biblical underpinnings:

Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. This will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you. Hebrews 13:17

And respect for authority begins at home.

Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you. Exodus 20:12

The Point: The answer for how to respond to doubts, questions, and adverse circumstances, as given by Paul to the Thessalonians.

"Don't abandon Jesus, the One you started with, by rejecting and questioning the caring leaders who have watched over you."

Question 4: According to Ted's message, what are some of the characteristics of a Christian leader who can be trusted?

Answer: *Good leaders leverage their authority for the benefit of others. (In contrast to bad leaders, who use others for the benefit of themselves.)*

Answer: *Good leaders care about people. [1 Thess 2:7-12]*

Answer: *Good leaders prioritize God's word [1 Thess. 2:13]*

Biblical Underpinnings:

You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results.

2 We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you our truth despite strong opposition. **3** For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you.

4 On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God.

5 You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. **6** We were not looking for praise from people or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. 1 Thessalonians 2:1-6

7 Instead, we were like young children among you.

Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, **8** so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the word of God but our lives as well. **9** Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden on anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. **10** You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were in the world as you believed. **11** For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, **12** encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

13 And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a word of men but actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe. 1 Thessalonians 2:13

Question 5: How does gratitude work as an antidote to entitlement?

Question 6: Who are some people you are thankful for in your life? From your past? From the present?

The Gratitude List

Thank the person God used to bring you to faith in Jesus.

Thank someone who helped your family out during a difficult time.

Thank the one who is constantly encouraging you.

Thank someone who sacrificed for you. (Veterans)

Thank a friend who accepts you for who you are but loves you too much to see you stay that way.

Thank the teacher investing in your child.