Introduction

One of the keys to a successful organization is teamwork. The church is like a body. Christ is the head and we are the members of the body of Christ. These instructions are given to help us function as a healthy church.

A healthy church is one where there is:

I. A proper respect for leadership. I Thess. 5:12-13

We ask you brothers to do this.

"Respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you."

Leadership in the church is never autocratic or heavy handed. Leadership in the church is leadership by example. One day, those in leadership will give an account to God for how they lead the church. Hebrews 13:17

On the other hand, Paul appeals to the church to:

- Respect those who work hard among you.
- Hold them in the highest regard in love.

A healthy church is one where there is:

II. A spirit of unity. I Thess. 5:13b
Unity matters to God.

Jesus prayed for unity.

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” John 17:20-21

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” Ephesians 4:2

“Make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.” Philippians 2:2

What is it that unites us?

It is our faith in Jesus

A healthy church is one where

III. The members care for one another. I Thess. 5:14-15

Paul gives a series of instructions that are addressed to the church.

- Warn those who are idle.
- Encourage the timid.
- Help the weak.
- Be patient with everyone.
- Make sure no one pays back wrong for wrong.
- Always be kind to one another and to everyone else.

Conclusion

These are a few of the marks of a healthy church.

Would you personalize these three commitments?

I will respect and honor those that God has placed in authority over me.

I will strive for unity in our church and with other believers.

I will use my time and gifts to build up, encourage and care for my brothers and sisters in Christ.