



**Date:** 7/27/25      **Title:** "A Faithful Community: Honor, Care and Peacemaking"

**Text:** 1 Thessalonians 5: 12-15

1 Thessalonians 5:12–15 calls the church to honor servant-hearted leaders who labor, care, and gently correct. Leadership is defined by Christlike sacrifice, not control. All believers share responsibility in ministering to others—encouraging the disheartened, supporting the weak, and showing patience to all, even the difficult. Ministry is relational, slow, and emotionally costly, but essential to building a faithful community. Paul urges a posture of peacemaking, rejecting retaliation and doing good to all. This countercultural ethic reflects Jesus, who entered our suffering and calls us to love sacrificially for the sake of the world.

### **Key Sermon Points**

1. **Honor Faithful Leaders** – Recognize and respect those who work hard, care deeply, and correct lovingly. True Christian leadership is marked by humility, service, and presence—not control or status.
2. **Care for One Another** – Every believer is called to engage in community care: warning the idle, encouraging the discouraged, helping the weak, and being patient with everyone, including those who are difficult or hurting.
3. **Pursue Peacemaking** – Reject retaliation and seek to do good to all people. This countercultural, Jesus-centered ethic reflects God’s love and strengthens the church’s witness to the world.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. How can we recognize and encourage our leaders who labor among us? (ministers, deacons, trustees, but also "de facto" leaders)
2. How can we pray for these leaders?
3. If we are leading in some capacity, how can we sacrifice, care for others, and correct others as Jesus would?
4. How can we seek to "do good" - even when it's inconvenient or toward those who have disappointed us?