

STANDING OUT: Stand Motivated

2 THESSALONIANS 3:6-18

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■ Central Church

■ August 7, 2022

■ Social Media: #StandingOut

The Church in the Last Days Must Be a Busy Body, Not Busybodies

1. Resist Lazy **Companions** (6, 10-12).
2. Renounce Sympathetic **Codependency** (6, 10, 12, 14-15).
3. Represent Contrasting **Correction** (6-10, 12-18).

2 Thessalonians 3:6-18

Now we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us.

⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, ⁸nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. ⁹It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.

¹¹For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies.

¹²Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

¹³As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good. ¹⁴If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of that person, and have nothing to do with him, that he may be ashamed. ¹⁵Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother.

¹⁶Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all. ¹⁷I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. This is the sign of genuineness in every letter of mine; it is the way I write. ¹⁸The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. (ESV).

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APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. When Paul talks about the “idle brother” in this passage, what kind of person do you think he has in mind? What are the marks of a lazy Christian we see in this passage? What are some steps to take with someone who refuses to work?
2. Is it wrong to take welfare or other assistance? In what circumstance could it be immoral? Is there a helping that hurts? Is it spiritually and practically helpful to continue giving to someone who is continually lazy and unchanging when challenged?
3. How would you counsel someone with a family member who refuses to “get busy” finding a job? This type of counseling is one of the most exhausting ministries. That’s probably why Paul ends this section with verse 13, “*do not grow weary in doing good.*” What are some motivations the Bible gives to keep us from growing weary as we stand helpful with the believers around us?

Quote for the Week . . .

by J.C. Ryle



“I want to strike a blow at the lazy, easy, sleepy Christianity of these latter days, which can see no beauty in zeal, and only uses the word “zealot” as a word of reproach... Zeal in religion is a burning desire to please God, to do His will, and to advance His glory in the world in every possible way. It is a desire which no man feels by nature – which the Spirit puts in the heart of every believer when he is converted, but which some believers feel so much more strongly than others that they alone deserve to be called “zealous” men. This desire is so strong, when it really reigns in a man, that it impels him to make any sacrifice, to go through any trouble, to deny himself to any amount, to suffer, to work, to labor, to toil, to spend himself and be spent, and even to die, if only he can please God and honor Christ.”

Practical Religion: Being Plain Papers on the Daily Duties, Experience, Dangers, and Privileges of Professing Christians, Charles Murray, 1900, p. 183-85.