

# Problem People

Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all *men*. See that none render evil for evil unto any *man*; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all *men*. (1 THESSALONIANS 5:14-15)

## I. The Works with Church Unattractive People

**A. God singles out unattractive people as mission fields for believers.** Now *we exhort you, brethren*, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all *men*. (1 THESSALONIANS 5:14)

**B. God calls believers to holy lives because people need to be called – holiness does not naturally develop in anyone.** *I beseech you* therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye ***present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*** (ROMANS 12:1)

**C. The covenant community must substitute for the missing conscience and ambition to holiness in fallen humanity.** Son of man, *I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel*: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. ***When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning***, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked *man* shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet ***if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.*** Again, ***When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning***, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; ***but his blood will I require at thine hand.*** Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous *man*, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul. (EZEKIEL 3:17-21)

**D. It is love not hatred or vengeance which motivates believers to warn bad actors.** *I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you.* (1 CORINTHIANS 4:14)

**E. No standard short of Christ can serve to satisfy God's demands.** Whom *we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus*: (COLOSSIANS 1:28)

**F. The problem people often appear inside the fellowship of the saints and it is wrong to tolerate less than God demands.** For *we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly*, working not at all, but are ***busybodies***. Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness

they work, and eat their own bread. But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing. (2 THESSALONIANS 3:11-13)

**G. Fighting sin to be acknowledged for fighting sin or to appear superior to others misses the gracious intent of the gospel to get men to Jesus.** For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile: But ***as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.*** For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God *is* witness: Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ. ***But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children: So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.*** For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God. ***Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:*** As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children, ***That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.*** (1 THESSALONIANS 2:3-12)

**H. The rebuke of sin and the exhortation to holiness express love and open the way to genuine and lasting comfort in life.** Comfort ***ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem,*** and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that ***her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.*** (ISAIAH 40:1-2)

## II. Follow Jesus' Example

**A. Jesus is the protecting shepherd.** ***I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick:*** but I will destroy the fat and the strong; ***I will feed them with judgment.*** (EZEKIEL 34:16)

**B. Jesus provides restoration for human weakness.** ***A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench,*** till he send forth judgment unto victory. (MATTHEW 12:20)

**C. Remember how Jesus restored Peter after the betrayal.** ***So*** when they had dined, ***Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these?*** He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, ***Feed my sheep.*** He saith unto him the third time, Simon, *son* of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou

me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee.  
***Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.*** (JOHN 21:15-17)

### **III. Seize the Gracious Moment**

**A. Sin provides an opportunity to call people to gracious holiness.** See that *none render evil for evil* unto any *man*; *but ever follow that which is good*, both among yourselves, and to all *men*. (1 THESSALONIANS 5:15)

**B. No person is holy enough to get beyond the lessons of life.** *Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.* I *am* the LORD. (LEVITICUS 19:18)

**C. Avoid getting sucked into sin.** *Whoso rewardeth evil for good, evil shall not depart from his house.* (PROVERBS 17:13)

**D. Leave the settling of accounts to God.** *Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the LORD, and he shall save thee.* (PROVERBS 20:22)

**E. Sin's natural consequences are never attractive to those who stand in the shadow of the cross.** *Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth:* (PROVERBS 24:17)