

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Face to Face: One to Another

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May 31, 2020

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: Think of a time when you were in complete awe of God and share with the group!

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

Outline:

- I. How we live outwardly toward others (v12-15)
 - a. We are to honor our leaders, be at peace with each other, and help the struggling.
 - b. Help others according to their struggles: admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, and help the weak.
Q: What does it mean to admonish?
- II. How we live inwardly in our spirit (v16-22)
 - a. We're to live with a sense of awe of the brilliance of our Creator and his love for us.
 - b. Have the disposition of 'the poet': rather than trying to make sense of a fallen world, live with a sense of wonder that God made us, loves us, talks to us, and called us.
Q: What does it mean to quench the spirit?
- III. How we live upwardly toward God (v23-24)
 - a. We don't sanctify ourselves, but God does it for us through Jesus and the cross.
 - b. Because of what He did, our upward relationship with God is never in question.
Q: What is our role in the sanctification process?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) How do you show love to the spiritual leaders in your life?
- 2) Is there an individual in your life that God is calling you to help? How can you love them?
- 3) Of the dispositions Paul listed, which come easiest to you? Which are areas for growth?
- 4) Do you struggle with the need to justify yourself before God? Before others?
- 5) What is a dark place in your life currently? How can you live in awe of God's goodness despite it?

Suggestions for further study:

- Matthew 5:43-48 **Q: Do we have to like our enemies?**
- Romans 8:1-11 **Q: What does it mean that the law is 'weakened by flesh?'**
- Ephesians 4:25-32 **Q: How do we be angry without sinning?**

Closing Prayer: *"Holy Spirit, on this Pentecost Sunday we give thanks that you poured yourself out on your church. That you breathed the very words of God through your apostles and prophets that we might know who you are. Spirit, thank you that you continue to breathe through us today. So may we listen to your voice, may we listen to the words of scripture, may we listen to you speak to us, may we live well outwardly, and inwardly, and especially may that be rooted in the upward love we have because of what Christ has done for us. May we look to him always as he continues to sanctify us body, soul and spirit. Amen."*