

# Separate from One Another

**Grace vs. Law**

**Legalism vs. Righteousness**

2 Thessalonians 3:6

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**Now, we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.**

Many read this and become legalistic.

Many read this and become judgmental—  
—always judging One Another.

Many read this and become Self-Righteous.

Some read this and say: ‘oh my’ ??????

The first issue we have to decide is, is this an exhortation to the Church—the assembly of believers, or to individual believers?

The intent of this verse is individual conduct between believers. We don't stand at the door and judge everyone's life, however if a believer is causing disruption in the assembly, it may be the best for the spiritual momentum of the assembly to separate from that believer causing the trouble.

**Now** This Greek is used to introduce a continuation of what preceded but in an explanatory manner.

## So what has preceded?

- 1 The Lord is Faithful
- 2 The Lord will strengthen you
- 3 The Lord will protect you from Satan
- 4 These believers are walking in a manner that is worthy before God (1 Thess. 2:12); walk or live in a manner that is pleasing to God (1 Thess. 4:1)
- 5 That He will direct their hearts into the love of God
- 6 That He will direct your hearts into the steadfastness of Christ.

Now, taking all this into consideration and how all these work together in the believer to live in a manner that is pleasing to God:

**Now we command you** the plural *we* refers to Paul and his team.

**command** is the **Present Active Indicative** (not the imperative but the indicative, indicating policy) **Present**: we constantly command or instruct you—**Indicative**: reality of our exhortation to you.

**We command** Translated *command you, order you, charge you, enjoin you, urge you* or simply *instruct you*. The Greek word is used in military context and means to pass on an announcement; TO GIVE THE GOOD NEWS TO SOMEONE; TO ADVANCE AN ORDER, CHARGE or COMMAND.

We have already had this word: 1 Thessalonians 4:2

2 Thessalonians 3:6

2 **For you know what commandments we gave you by *the authority of the Lord Jesus.***

The Greek word **command** (*The Complete Biblical Library- Volume 5*) TO TELL, TO ANNOUNCE; expresses the idea of a forward movement thus the passing on of a message or “INSTRUCTING” but this “DIRECTING” has notes of authority and obligation attached to it as well.

“It is used of Jesus Authoritatively commanding demonic spirits to depart in Luke 8:29.

And it is used in describing how JESUS CHRIST “instructed” His disciples. Acts 1:4; Mark 6:8 and Matthew 10:5.

**Now, we command you/direct you, brethren,**

This is addressed to those believers who are walking by Faith in the Holy Spirit and showing Spiritual Love toward One Another.

2 Thessalonians 3:6

6 **in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

The ultimate authority of his commands or his instruction is from the authority given to him by the head of the Church, Jesus the Christ.

**that** introduces the substance of this command

**that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life keep away from –that you withdraw yourselves** the Greek is variously translated: *KEEP AWAY FROM,*

*STAY AWAY FROM, TO AVOID, WITHDRAW FROM; SEPARATE FROM, NOT ASSOCIATE WITH, KEEP ALOOF FROM; STAND ALOOF FROM.*

- 1 Note first who is separating from whom...here the believer in the leading of the Holy Spirit separates from the believer living an anti-Godly life.
- 2 What happens so often is that the believer living an unruly life does not want to be around those who live according to the WORD OF GOD, and he separates from them.
- 3 But what happens if he does not separate?
- 4 In what way are they to separate from this type of Believer.
  - a **As to the assembly**—if they are disruptive, otherwise they are welcomed. Where are they to hear the Truth, if not in the church or at least in the church they will hear the Truth and that combined with the convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit may create a repentant attitude
  - b **Social separation** this separation is designed to cause that believer to come to the realization that they are not in plan of God. That their conduct is a selfish rebellious life against the WORD OF GOD. And as we will see in verse 14 bring them to a repentant shame.
  - c **it is not excommunication** from the assembly nor from you personally. You will meet with them, with the intent of showing Spiritual love but not condoning their walk of life. When you meet with them you demonstrate spiritual love not

judgment! You demonstrate condemnation of their life style **not of them, personally, they are fellow believers in JESUS CHRIST.**

You encourage them to change their thinking and come back into the family

d **absence of intimate fellowship** just as when we are in sin we can have no intimate fellowship with the Lord. And the Holy Spirit convicts us of how betrayal of the Lord and incites a desire to come back into fellowship with Him.

The present tense again emphasizes that this should be their practice, but there may be occasions when you will be in contact with them. Married, divorced but have children, or by the leading of the Holy Spirit--the Holy Spirit knows they may be open to a sound conversation about the Truth of the WORD OF GOD. If you make this a dogmatic declaration of never speaking with them, you may be cutting yourself off from helping them to be restored.

Always listen to the leading of the Holy Spirit. He will direct your ways. Whenever you say "*I will never...*" except in respect of sin, you may be cutting off the leading of the Holy Spirit.

**The Spirit Filled Life Is A Dynamic And Flexible Life.**

**From every brother** believers in JESUS CHRIST.

## **Who leads an unruly life**

### **Do you see it?**

Just because someone lives an unruly life does not mean they are not saved!!!

So much for Lordship Salvation and so much for losing your salvation. But this believer who lives an unruly life does lose out in eternal life.

**Who leads** here we begin our understanding of separation:

This is in the present tense—this means this is their daily life day in and day out: and the King James has the more direct interpretation...**who walks** referring to how one lives their lives on a daily basis..

**Who walks an unruly life** Uh oh, what is an unruly life?

The Greek word is made up of *alpha* prefix which adds to the root word the negative: **not** or **no** plus the Greek word meaning “TO ARRANGE” TO FIX, TO APPOINT THEREFORE, WITHOUT ORDER, or DISORDERLY.

The Question that has to be answered to a word like this is...

**who defines what is an orderly life?**

**Who declares that something is disorderly.**

And Paul answers this question here: **not according to the traditions you receive from us.** So we can simply this by saying they live a life not according to the WORD OF GOD, or the Will of God.

**A believer who lives a disorderly life is characterized by:**

1 Does not recognize the authority of the WORD OF GOD

2 Does not walk after the Holy Spirit but walks after the flesh Galatians 5:13-26

3 This believer has an **'attitude'** about **God** and what God desires, about **the WORD OF GOD** and what WORD OF GOD commands and about the local church.

4 The word means to 'be out of step with everyone else' out of step with the WORD OF GOD, out of step with Holy Spirit.  
Galatians 5:25

25 **If we live by the Spirit let us also keep in step with the Holy Spirit.**

5 This believer has decided that they are going to live how they want to live, not how any preacher or the Bible or anyone else tells them. Therefore, they live irresponsibly before the Lord. **They live an undisciplined life.**

6 The real problem here is that they do not care! They do not care what you think, they do not care what God thinks nor what the WORD OF GOD declares.. "this is the way I am going to live and I don't care what God or anyone has to say"

7 One of the goals of 'separation' from these

undisciplined believers is **to shame them** for the purpose that they would repent and come back to the Lord. (verse 14)

I hope you are beginning to see how irresponsible believer can disrupt the spiritual and the doctrinal momentum of an entire assembly of believers and the dangers they place individual believers in.

**and not according to** or  
**in accordance with the tradition which you received from us.**

**Tradition** is a very weak translation of this word in our context The NIV more correctly translates this **teaching**, other translations: **Doctrine** or **instruction**.

**And not according to the teaching you received from us which you received from us**

This is a two part phrase:

**First:**

Paul taught the way to live a life, to walk in a manner that is pleasing to God here again why you have to be so careful as to whom you listen to in the teaching of the WORD OF GOD. Is he teaching the Truth and does he teach the whole Truth?



## **Second:**

They received it as Truth from God, so they believe it and strive to live accordingly.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

13 **For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted *it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.***

These believers received the teaching of Paul as the WORD OF GOD, by which they were to live. The great issue in morality, in how to live is the source of the standard you choose to live by. For the Christian this is the WORD OF GOD and only the WORD OF GOD.

6 **Now** (in consideration of all that we have just taught you) **we command/exhort you, brethren,** (believers in JESUS CHRIST as Savior) **in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,** (by the authority we have as His servants) **that you keep away from every brother** (believers in JESUS CHRIST) **who leads/walks an unruly life and/even not according to the teaching which you received from us.**

A verse like this can most easily lead to legalism, encourage believers judging One Another which leads to arrogance and living by Law rather than by Grace.

A verse like this must be studied in relationship with other verses and concepts of living the Spirit Filled Life with One Another.

1 First your actions toward another believer even when they are out of the Plan of God must be by the leading of the Holy Spirit. So you best know how to be Filled with the Holy by Grace through Faith.

2 Passages such as are found in Galatians 5.

10 **I have confidence in you in the Lord that you will adopt no other view;** (you will stay with the Truth on how we are to walk and not accept some false view because others are living that way) **but the one who is disturbing you** (this would be the believer we are studying in 2 Thessalonians 3:6—living an undisciplined life) **will bear his judgment, whoever he is.**

13 **serve One Another in love**

15 **But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.**

18 **But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.**

And, of course, the all importance of Galatians 6:1-2.

1 **Brethren,** (believers) **even if anyone** (any other believer) **is caught in any trespass,** (caught up in a trend of sin or if you actually see them in the act of sin) **you who are spiritual,** (empowered by the Holy Spirit) **restore such a one** (In order to restore you cannot completely separate from them) **in a spirit of gentleness;** (as opposed to a judgmental spirit, condemning them)

***each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.*** To join them in their sin or tempted to arrogance and superiority.

Verse 2 explains one way we restore another believer.

- 2 **Bear one another's burdens,** (not complete separation, not excommunication, but bear their burdens caused by their sinful ways; remember who bore the burdens of your sins...Jesus Christ on the cross..) **and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.** (the cross)

1 Corinthians 4:5

- 5 **Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time,** (Judgment Seat of Christ, after *the rapture*) **but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.** (And condemnation.)

Ephesians 4:31-5:2

- 31 **Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.**

- 32 **Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.**

- 1 **Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;** (forgiving One Another just as God in Christ also has forgiven you)
- 2 **and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.**

But, also, balance this out with 2 Thessalonians 3:6 and such passages as: Romans 16:17 -18

- 17 **Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions (in the assembly) and hindrances (to spiritual growth in the WORD OF GOD) contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them.**
- 18 **For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.**

1 Corinthians 5:9-13

- 9 **I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people;**
- 10 ***I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to go out of the world.***

11 **But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother (he is a believer but does not live as a believer in JESUS CHRIST) **if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one.****

12 **For what have I to do with judging outsiders?**  
(unbelievers)  
**Do you not judge those who are within *the church?*** (believers)

13 **But those who are outside, God judges. REMOVE THE WICKED MAN FROM AMONG YOURSELVES.**

We are to talk with these people before separating from them.

Titus 3:10-11

10 **Reject a factious man after a first and second warning,**

11 **knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned.**

Our study in 2 Thessalonians 3:6 and this passage in Titus 3:10 is taken from an understanding of our Lords teaching in Matthew 18:15-17 when it involves the entire assembly. But the principle of going and talking with someone even on a personal basis is applicable.

Matthew 18:15-17

15 **“If your brother sins, go and show him his fault (in the Word of God) in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.**

16 **“But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED.**

17 **“If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.**

**We closed last week with looking at the POSITIVE ways we are to interact with One Another.**

**Now, let us take a look at some NEGATIVES... how we are not to act between believers.**

-SEE CHART NEXT PAGE-

**Only when under the power of the Holy Spirit, can we expect to  
"imitate" Jesus Christ in our relationships with One Another.**

<b><i>Under the power of the Holy Spirit, we will...</i></b>	<b><i>Qualifier</i></b>	<b><i>Antonym</i></b>	<b><i>Scripture Reference</i></b>
1. <b>Betray or Deliver Up One Another</b>	<i>By controlling or ruling One Another - the dilemma of Law</i>	Receive and reconcile One Another	Matt. 24:10
2. <b>Hate or Detest One Another</b>	<i>Because they do not want what YOU want</i>	Love One Another	Matt. 24:10
3. <b>Compete with One Another</b>	<i>In words or actions which comes from a performance system like the Law</i>	Love One Another for Spiritual Love does not exult itself; does not boast; does not compete	Mark 9:33-34; Gal. 5:26
4. <b>Be Inconsiderate of One Another</b>	<i>Law tramples</i>	Love considers One Another	Luke 12:1
5. <b>Seek Glory from One Another</b>	<i>When not walking by faith, Law gives glory to man</i>	All glory belongs to God. His glory is reflected in us	John 5:44, Jere. 2:11-13; Psa. 106:19-21
6. <b>Grumble, Speak Secretly or Complain With or About One Another [especially about grace and truth]</b>	<i>Encouraged by Law or any performance system</i>	Speak well of One Another; encourage always	John 6:41-43 & 6:60-61; 1 Cor. 10:10
7. <b>Argue with One Another [quarrel or dispute]</b>	<i>A result of arrogance and Law; To control one another</i>	Love; peace; reconciliation	John 6:52, Acts 7:26; 2 Tim. 2:24
8. <b>Injure One Another [damage or hurt one another]</b>	<i>Encouraged by Law</i>	Restore, edify, build up	Acts 7:26, 1 Cor. 6:5-9; Job 19:1-6
9. <b>Judge One Another</b>	<i>By self-righteousness – the dilemma of Law</i>	Pray for and restore - do not add to their burden; encourage to walk by faith; judge ourselves	Rom. 14:13, John 3:17-18, 1 Cor. 3:11; 2 Tim. 4:1; Rom. 14:10, Matt. 7:1-2; James 2:12-13; 4:11-12

<b><i>Under the power of the Holy Spirit, we will...</i></b>	<b><i>Qualifier</i></b>	<b><i>Antonym</i></b>	<b><i>Scripture Reference</i></b>
10. Deprive One Another	<i>"Lest Satan tempt you"</i>	Come together	1 Cor. 7:5
11. Bite or Devour One Another	<i>Which is a result of the Law</i>	Serve One Another in Love	Gal. 5:15 and 13; Prov. 16:28; 17:9, 10:12
12. Challenge or Provoke One Another	<i>The dilemma of Law</i>	Serve One Another in Love; Restore in Gentleness	Gal 5:26
13. Envy One Another [Be jealous of...]	<i>The Law is a performance system which leads to envy.</i>	Love One Another for Spiritual Love is not jealous or envious	Gal. 5:26, Mark 7:20-22; Phil 1:15; 1 Tim. 6:4
14. Lie to One Another [We lie to promote or protect]	<i>As Satan is the deceiver – the father of lies</i>	Speak only the truth to One Another Do not lie to others, God or self	Col 3:9; Acts 5:1-5; Eph. 4:15

**Whatever we do,  
We should do it  
AS UNTO THE LORD!**



