



Strengthening Our Christian Relationships

Sunday Evening Message by Ray Reynolds (March 23, 2014)

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Introduction: The New Testament church thrived on fellowship! Immediately after the church was established they strengthened their Christian relationships (**Acts 2, 4**). The personal touch of the Christian faith was such a far cry from the Jewish religion. One church family that mastered this concept was in Thessalonica. I believe the recipe for strong Christian relationships can be found within Paul's first letter to that church. Let's study together....

Discussion:

R = *Recognition* (**I Thessalonians 2:8**)

E = *Encouragement* (**I Thessalonians 5:11**)

L = *Laughter* (**I Thessalonians 2:19-20**)

A = *Acceptance* (**I Thessalonians 2:7, 11**)

T = *Transparency* (**I Thessalonians 2:5**)

I = *Involvement* (**I Thessalonians 4:11-12**)

O = *Outreach* (**I Thessalonians 1:2-3**)

N = *Numerical Growth* (**I Thessalonians 1:6-8**)

S = *Spiritual Growth* (**I Thessalonians 3:12-13**)

H = *Honesty* (**I Thessalonians 2:3-4**)

I = *Intimacy* (**I Thessalonians 3:1-3**)

P = *Purpose* (**I Thessalonians 5:8-10**)

Conclusion: We still have much to learn from these brethren in Thessalonica. Praise the Lord that Paul wrote of their strong Christian bond! Please don't miss Paul's closing remarks to the church at Thessalonica (**I Thessalonians 5:12-28**). Could this be said of our church family? How is your relationship with God? How is your relationship with God's people? The world should see Christ in us. We need to be strong in Christ and we need strong Christian relationships!

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