

LIVING IN *Harmony*

By Min. Kenneth Sy | 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

DISCUSS

In the community called the church, followers of Jesus look after each other despite our differences in personalities, backgrounds, social status, ideas, etc., and build relationships with one another as one body in Christ.

- What makes you feel a part of a Christian community?
- Do you consider your church as your spiritual home? Why?

Let's discover THREE ATTRIBUTES OF A CHURCH LIVING IN HARMONY in 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28.

Appreciates the pastors in leadership (v. 12-13a)

- Whom did Paul tell the believers to relate to with high esteem in love and for what reason?
- Who are the people whom we consider as church leaders nowadays? What are the responsibilities of the Pastors and church leaders to people in the church?
- What are your expectations from your church leaders? Are you open to be admonished or corrected if they have to?
- How do you show your appreciation to your church leaders?
- How do you relate to your fellow Christians in your church community?

Ministers to one another in fellowship (v. 13b-15)

- Why did Paul command the Christians to be at peace among themselves?

- What are the possible tensions that could happen even among Christians?
- What were Paul exhortations to people in the Christian community on how they should relate or respond to the unruly, fainthearted and weak (v. 14)?
- As part of the church, share how you care and minister to others in your Christian community?
- How vital is forgiveness in your relationship to others in the church?

Exalts God alone in worship (v. 16-22).

- What were the Thessalonian believers instructed to do in their worship?
- How can you possibly rejoice always, pray without ceasing and give thanks in everything? In what ways can you cultivate these attitudes in your spiritual life? How would these attitudes affect your worship?
- What does it mean to quench the spirit? How should you respond when the Holy Spirit leads you to appreciate your pastors, encourage the fainthearted, cultivate a community of peace, love and forgiveness, help the weak and admonish the unruly?

REFLECT

The apostle Paul closes his first letter to the Thessalonians with a prayer and benediction in verses 23-28. How does God call you to live in harmony (v. 23-24)? What did Paul ask the Thessalonian believers to do in verses 25-26? How did Paul close his letter in the last two verses? How can you relate to how Paul ended this passage?

PRAY

Heavenly Father, as a part of a community of believers saved by Your grace through faith in Christ Jesus, may You guide me to live in harmony together with my brothers and sisters in the church. There is no way I can do it on my own, but through Your grace alone. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.