



Sermon Questions

November 17, 2024 | Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15 (Peace)

Pre-study: 3 things from the sermon. *Note down 3 ideas, illustrations, quotes, or points that made an impression in the sermon.*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

1. How can we develop a heart that is open to receiving constructive criticism with grace?
2. Reflecting on your own behavior, when have you been tempted to repay someone's wrong with another wrong?
 - How did you handle it, and what might have been a more peace-filled response?
3. In verses 14-15, Paul gives different instructions based on people's needs (admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak). What practical steps can you take this week to discern how to respond to the specific needs of those around you?
4. What's a practical way to break a cycle of negativity and respond with kindness instead?
5. How does Jesus' self-giving love and humility speak to our own struggles with selfishness and pride?
 - How might we let His love shape our hearts, so we can become a more gentle and loving presence to those around us this week?

WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Reflect on these Scriptures:

- Deuteronomy 10:12-22
- Psalm 133
- Isaiah 32:1-8
- Matthew 5:1-12
- Ephesians 4:1-3
- 1 Peter 3:8-22

Serve: Could you help disciple our young people? Children's and Student ministries need volunteers.

<https://mcleanpres.org/serve>

Pray: Pray for people approaching Thanksgiving without people to spend it with, or with hard things to step into.

When first even the least drop of faith is instilled in our minds, we begin to contemplate God's face, peaceful and calm and gracious toward us. We see him afar off, but so clearly as to know we are not at all deceived. Then, the more we advance as we ought continually to advance, with steady progress, as it were, the nearer and thus surer sight of him we obtain; and by the very continuance he is made even more familiar to us ... It is like a man who, shut up in a prison into which the sun's rays shine obliquely and half obscured through a rather narrow window, is indeed deprived of the full sight of the sun. Yet his eyes dwell on its steadfast brightness, and he receives its benefits. Thus, bound with the fetters of an earthly body, however much we are shadowed on every side with great darkness, we are nevertheless illumined as much as need be for firm assurance when, to show forth his mercy, the light of God sheds even a little of its radiance.

John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion* vol. 1, 565.