

**HE'S COMING BACK – PART IX**  
**“Priorities of a Healthy Church”**  
**1 Thessalonians 5:12-28**

Some churches are very healthy and some are very sick. My hope would be that every church would be growing and thriving. As Paul concludes his letter, it appears that he is putting random thoughts on paper that are disconnected. However, the things he closes with, if taken to heart, can transform a church into a healthy God-honoring fellowship. This teaching will reveal characteristics of a healthy church.

**#1. A HEALTHY CHURCH WILL FOCUS ON DEVELOPING \_\_\_\_\_, vv. 12-15**

- A. The healthy way to relate to church leaders, vv. 12-13
  - 1. Acknowledge those who work hard among you, v. 12
  - 2. Acknowledge those who care for you, v. 12
  - 3. Acknowledge those who admonish you, v. 12
  - 4. Hold church leaders in high regard, v. 13
  - 5. Live in peace with each other, v. 13, Heb 13:17
  
- B. The healthy way to relate to one another in church, vv. 14-15
  - 1. Warn the idle & disruptive, v. 14
  - 2. Encourage the disheartened, v. 14
  - 3. Help the weak, v. 14
  - 4. Be patient with everyone, v. 14
  - 5. Do not try to get even when wronged, v. 15, Rom 12:17-19
  - 6. Do what is good for each other & everyone, v. 15, Eph 4:3

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**#2. A HEALTHY CHURCH WILL FOCUS ON \_\_\_\_\_, vv. 16-18**

- A. Rejoice always, v. 16
- B. Pray continually, v. 17
- C. Give thanks in all circumstances, v. 18
- D. This is God's will in Christ, v. 18

**#3. A HEALTHY CHURCH WILL FOCUS ON BEING RECEPTIVE TO THE \_\_\_\_\_, vv. 19-22**

- A. Do not quench the Spirit, v. 19, Eph 4:30
- B. Do not hold prophecies with contempt, v. 20
- C. Test prophecies: keep the good, reject the evil, v. 21, 1 Cor 14:29

**#4. A HEALTHY CHURCH WILL FOCUS ON DEVELOPING \_\_\_\_\_, vv. 23-24**

- A. God sanctifies us, v. 23, Phil 1:12-13
- B. God sanctifies us completely: spirit, soul and body, v. 23
- C. God will keep us blameless at Christ's coming, v. 23
- D. God is faithful & will do this, v. 24

**#5. A HEALTHY CHURCH WILL FOCUS ON \_\_\_\_\_, vv. 25-27**

- A. Pray for your leaders, v. 25
- B. Have good fellowship, v. 26
- C. The charge: Read this letter to the church, v. 27
- D. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you, v. 28

**ANSWERS:** Healthy Relationships, Spiritual Disciplines, Holy Spirit, Mature Disciples, God's Word.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- #1. What are the characteristics of an unhealthy church?
- #2. In what ways can a congregation show appreciation to their pastor and other church leaders?
- #3. Why is it important to live in peace with your leaders?  
(Hebrews 13:17)
- #3. Discuss each of the different categories of people in verse 14 and how we can minister to them.
- #4. Why is v. 15 important for church relationships? (see Romans 12:17-19, Ephesians 4:3)
- #5. In what sense is rejoicing, praying and giving thanks spiritual disciplines? (vv. 16-18)
- #6. What does Paul mean by prophecies (vv. 19-22)? What does Paul mean by testing them (1 Corinthians 14:29)?
- #7. What are the implications of God's work in our sanctification (vv. 23-24, Phil 2:12-13)?
- #8. Paul charges the Thessalonians to read his letter to the church. Why is it important for a church to focus on God's word?
- #9. Discuss how the application of this passage could transform a church into a healthy body.
- #10. What is your takeaway from this teaching?
- #11. What is your takeaway from 1 Thessalonians?

# *Welcome*

*to*

# *Hillcrest Church!*

*Love, Acceptance &  
Forgiveness!*

*They tell us how you turned to God from idols to  
serve the living and true God, and  
to wait for his Son from heaven*

*1 Thessalonians 1:9-10*

**October 2, 2022**

**Pastor Bruce Guckelberg, PhD**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### TODAY OCTOBER 2nd

Pastor Bruce will be concluding his series in 1 Thessalonians this morning.

### NEXT WEEK BEGINS THE 30-DAY PRAYER CHALLENGE

The prayer challenge is October 9 - November 7. You are invited to participate in praying for the revitalization of Hillcrest Church, by visiting our website (HillcrestRoseville.com) every day, and reading through the prayer blog supplied by pastor Bruce. Each daily blog will give you some Scripture and ways that you can pray for the church. There will also be daily posts on Face Book. I'm hoping that you will all participate in this prayer challenge.

### ONLINE GATHERINGS

Tuesday Prayer at 7:00pm, Wednesday Bible Study at 6:30pm  
Go to the online meeting room on our website (hillcrestRoseville.com) to access the gathering.

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Our offering box is in the back of the sanctuary. You can place your tithes and offerings there, or you can visit our website and give online (hillcrestroseville.com).

### FACILITY UPGRADES – THE KITCHEN & UPSTAIRS CHILDREN'S AREA

We are making great progress remodeling the kitchen and the upper children's area. If you want to contribute money to this effort write "building fund" in the memo of your check.

## HALLOWEEN OUTREACH / FALL FESTIVAL

### OCTOBER 31, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Combined trunk-or-treat, carnival games, free snack bar event in our parking lot. Last year over 200 people came through. We need lots of help:

- **BORROWED** Searchlights, light bulb strings; long extension cords and stands for mounting lights to light the entire parking lot
- **VOLUNTEERS** to run 8 carnival game stations (basket-ball toss, corn hole and tin can pyramid toss etc.) Candy distributed as prizes.
- **VOLUNTEERS** for 8-10 Trunk-or-Treat stations—decorate your car, dress up in costume and give out candy. (The church will supply all the candy you need)
- Help before and after the event to set up and clean up.
- Donate wrapped candy to the church starting now and up to Oct 31. Drop off point by the kitchen.

Contact Kathy Brooks 96-847-8123 or sign up on clipboard (by offering box) to help.