

LIVING IN GRATITUDE
I Thessalonians 5:12-22

Introduction:

1. Today, I want us to look at the impact that ungrateful hearts are having on America and on our morals and society today.
2. For a foundation, I want us to look at the 10 Commandments and Romans 1:21-32 to enlighten us on the seriousness of ingratitude.
3. For instance, I want us to take a quick look at 7 horrible sins that are in violation of both Exodus 20:3-17 and Romans 1:21-32 and see their connection to ingratitude.
4. Gratitude is more than saying, "Thank you," because it is to be a lifestyle.

I. (vv. 12-13) THE FOUNDATION FOR GRATITUDE.

1. (v. 12) Honor those who have labored, led, and guided us in the faith (Hebrews 13:7, 17).
2. (v. 13) Love the person and the work they have done for the Lord (I Corinthians 15:58)

II. (vv. 14-15) EXHORTATIONS IN GUARDING GRATITUDE.

1. (v. 14) These are warnings to those in the church (Idleness-II Thess. 3:10; Busybody-II Thess. 3:11; Pot-Stirrers—Romans 16:17-18).
2. (v. 14) Comfort the discouraged in the church and help the weak.
3. (v. 14) Be patient with everyone in the church.
4. (v. 15) The work is for EVERYONE in the church.
5. We are NEVER to repay evil for evil (Rom. 12:17-21), but to pursue goodness (Galatians 6:10).

III. (vv. 16-22) EXHORTATIONS FOR LIVING DAILY IN GRATITUDE.

1. (v. 16) Rejoice always! (Rom. 14:17; Gal. 5:22-23).
2. (v. 17) Pray constantly! (Rom. 12:12).
3. (v. 18) Give thanks in Everything! (Rom. 8:28).
4. (v. 19) Do not quench the Holy Spirit! (Eph. 4:30).
5. (v. 20) Do not despise prophecies! (II Tim. 4:1-4).
6. (v. 21) Test all things and hold on to what is good (I Jn 4:1-2).
7. (v. 22) Avoid the appearance of evil and evil itself (I Cor. 15:33).

Conclusion –

1. Be sure to give thanks to God in everything.
2. Be sure to express thanks to others.
3. Be sure to teach our children to be thankful & develop that lifestyle.

Hebrews 13:7,17 - "Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of *their* conduct. Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you."

I Corinthians 15:58 - "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

II Thessalonians 3:10-11 - "Night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith? Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you."

Romans 16:17-18 - "Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple."

Romans 12:17-21 - "Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, '*Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,*' says the Lord. Therefore '*If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.*' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Galatians 6:10 - "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith."

Romans 14:17 - "For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."

Galatians 5:22-23 – "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."

Romans 12:12 – “Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer.”

Romans 8:28 – “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.”

Ephesians 4:30 – “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

II Timothy 4:1-4 – “Charge *you* therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.”

I John 4:1-2 – “Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples).”

I Corinthians 15:33 – “Do not be deceived: ‘Evil company corrupts good habits.’”