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The Do's and Don'ts of Living in the Light of Christ's Return

2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

⁶ Now we command you, brothers *and sisters*, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother or sister who leads a disorderly life and not one in accordance with the tradition which you received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined way among you, 8 nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you; 9 not because we do not have the right to this, but in order to offer ourselves as a role model for you, so that you would follow our example. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either. 11 For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. 12 Now we command and exhort such persons in the Lord Jesus Christ to work peacefully and eat their own bread. 13 But as for you, brothers and sisters, do not grow weary of doing good. 14 If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person so as not to associate with him, so that he will be put to shame. ¹⁵ And yet do not regard that person as an enemy, but admonish that one as a brother or sister.

1. Keep away from believers who lead a disorderly, undisciplined disobedient life and don't associate with them (6,14)

⁶ Now we command you, brothers *and sisters*, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother *or sister* who leads a disorderly life and not *one* in accordance with the tradition which you received from us

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¹⁴ If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person *so as* not to associate with him, so that he will be put to shame.

2. Follow the example of disciplined and responsible believers (7-10)

⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined way among you, ⁸ nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we *kept* working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you; ⁹ not because we do not have the right *to this*, but in order to offer ourselves as a role model for you, so that you would follow our example. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.

3. Don't be undisciplined busybodies, instead work and support yourself (11-12)

¹¹ For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. ¹² Now we command and exhort such persons in the Lord Jesus Christ to work peacefully and eat their own bread

4. Don't grow weary in doing good (13)

¹³ But as for you, brothers and sisters, do not grow weary of doing good.

5. Admonish believers to be obedient and disciplined in following the Lord (15)

¹⁴ If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person so as not to associate with him, so that he will be put to shame. ¹⁵ And *yet* do not regard *that person* as an enemy, but admonish *that one* as a brother *or sister*.