



Shorter Study

■ **Open the session with prayer.**

■ **Read together 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22.**

- It appears that Paul is talking about a group of pastoral workers (ie. those who “labour among you”), calling the church to love them in their role of “admonishment” over them (v.12). What does it mean to have a ministry of “admonishment” in the church?
- Paul encourages the church to “admonish the idle (or disorderly), encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all” (v.14). How much of this sort of activity is happening in your pastoral ministry currently?
- Within this general calling of “admonishment” within the church, there are overtones of “rejoicing” (v.16) and “giving thanks” (v.18). What do these overtones suggest about the attitude while the work of admonishment is taking place?

■ **Watch the video entitled “Session 15 – Overseeing Care & Community”.**

Session Overview:

1. Good pastoral care is “spiritual care”
2. Good pastoral care takes different forms
3. Good pastoral care engages the gifts of many

Reflection Questions:

1. How would you define “pastoral care”?
2. To what extent is pastoral care the responsibility of the pastor?
3. Pastoral care can come in many shapes and sizes. Most churches have three avenues of providing pastoral care: small groups, mercy-ministry groups and eldership interactions/visitations. Spend some time highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of each of these “avenues” and the elements that your church could make better use of.
4. Take one current pastoral care issue in the church currently. Can you identify the “spiritual need” that needs attention? Can you identify the “practical care” that is also needed? What can be done to deal with this issue holistically?

■ **Close in prayer.**



Longer Study

■ **Open the session with prayer.**

■ **Read together 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22.**

- It appears that Paul is talking about a group of pastoral workers (ie. those who “labour among you”), calling the church to love them in their role of “admonishment” over them (v.12). What does it mean to have a ministry of “admonishment” in the church?
- Paul encourages the church to “admonish the idle (or disorderly), encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all” (v.14). How much of this sort of activity is happening in your pastoral ministry currently?
- Within this general calling of “admonishment” within the church, there are overtones of “rejoicing” (v.16) and “giving thanks” (v.18). What do these overtones suggest about the attitude while the work of admonishment is taking place?

■ **Watch the video entitled “Session 15 – Overseeing Care & Community”.**

Session Overview:

1. Good pastoral care is “spiritual care”
2. Good pastoral care takes different forms
3. Good pastoral care engages the gifts of many

Theological Questions:

1. How would you define “pastoral care”?
2. Murray said, “too easily pastoral care becomes little more than palliative care. We visit to comfort people and make them feel a little better...” How do we find the balance between providing practical care and spiritual care?
3. To what extent is pastoral care the responsibility of the pastor?

