



THANKFUL FOR...

“My Support”

1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

November 16, 2014

3 Truths About Our Need For Support...

1. We Were Created to Be in Communion with Our Heavenly Father
2. We Were Created to Be in Community with One Another
3. We are Created to Help Connect Others to their Creator and Then Help Them Connect with a Community of Believers

Why We Should Be Thankful for The Support of Our Church Family...

- ✓ We Are Connected to Each Other
- ✓ We Are Called to Follow Godly Leadership
- ✓ We Can Be At Peace With One Another
- ✓ We Can Be Challenged By Others
- ✓ We Are Cared For By Others
- ✓ We Are Carried By Others
- ✓ We Can Check (Practice) Our Patience
- ✓ We Are Compelled To Forgive
- ✓ We Can Be Cheered On By Others
- ✓ We Are Prayed For By Others

Our Response:

- ✓ **Give Your Heart and Life To Christ TODAY!**
It's as simple as ABC! **Admit** you are a sinner (You Need God's Grace), **Ask** Him to Forgive All your Sins; **Believe** that Jesus is God's Son; **Confess** Him as Savior and **Commit** your life to Him as Lord for the rest of your life!! **Your next step is Baptism...** Have you made that public and followed through with Baptism? If not, you can do that today as well.
- ✓ **Come Join and Be A Part of the Family of God here @ Petal FBC** and helping us to bring the good news of the Gospel to our community & to the ends of the earth!
- ✓ **Be Connected to a LifeGroup that fits you.** We have multiple LifeGroups with a desire to start many more to be certain that every person in our Church is connected to a LifeGroup. This is where the bulk of our support comes from is people knowing us, loving us, supporting us, and praying for us!
- ✓ **Commit to Sharing Your Life with Someone Else**
Through a ministry in our Church, through a LifeGroup, through a Mission Opportunity or Trip

THANKFUL FOR...

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1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

November 16, 2014 AM Worship

So we continue our series this morning Thankful and last week we talked about our decision to be thankful. This sets up this entire series.

1 Important Perspective: Giving Thanks

Ephesians 5:20 tells us *“giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (NRSV)

2 Important Phrases At All Times For Everything

1 Important Person: The Focus of our thankfulness - God the Father

The first thing we talked about was being **Thankful for Our Story** – the story of our lives the Lord is writing. We all have a story, we are confident the Lord is writing our story, we are compelled to live our story purposefully, and finally we are called to share our story. Last week we talked about – **Our Season to Share and we see already your taking that to heart!**

This morning we turn our hearts towards the third thing we are thankful for and that is outside of Christ our Greatest and most important spiritual support we have – Our Church Family – both our LifeGroup, Our Church Family and then beyond other Churches in our area – other believers and Christ Followers around the nation and the world.

3 Truths About Our Support...

1. We Were Created to Be in Communion with Our Heavenly Father

He created us to have a deep, personal and abiding relationship with Him. It is a relationship that bring us the greatest love, joy, hope, peace, contentment, purpose, fulfillment, and even the greatest – our opportunity to bring glory and honor to the name of the Lord because of our relationship with Him. We are called to worship Him – but worship involves a relationship – it’s not some worship Him from a distance, worship someone that we don’t know, follow someone that we don’t have a relationships with. **ILLUS: King/Queen – followed them because they had to not because they knew them – they were forced to.** We worship, serve, and live for our King who knows us and invites us

to know Him intimately and follow Him and be in relationship with Him for our entire lives and then to eternity. Hello!

2. We Were Created to Be in Community with One Another

From the very beginning, the Lord never intended for us to be alone – He puts Adam in the middle of the garden first with just the animals and then part of his grand design He creates the woman, Eve and thus the first relationship. Though he had one with God, the Lord had put within him the need for a relationship with another human being – it's why he was lonely.

It is one Satan's greatest attacks on the kingdom of God ever and it has already overtaken Europe and it is spreading like a cancer here – here it is – this is going to be two strong words so hang on here!

And it this – believer's don't have to be connected to other believers in community – church is not necessary to be a believer nor is it required nor is it necessary for spiritual growth and development. I would simply say it is Satan's great attack and lie on many here and other churches. The Word of God is clear – we must be in relationship with one another and I am not just talking about being a member, but deeply connected to the lives of other – particularly and most importantly spiritual – deeply so! If we think we can follow Christ and do so when we want to and how we want to and no connection to the body or even more a half-hearted connection we are deeply mistaken. When you are not here you are missed, you are needed and others need you to be here so that you can invite them to be here – well I can be wherever and worship God and that's ok – my home, the ball field, the deer stand, the beach, the sniffles, and Satan has greatly misled you and lied to you and we have bought into to it. (Doesn't mean we can't miss because it will happen to all of us but by in large we should be deeply and passionately committed to our local Church, LifeGroup where we are called to do life together!) You miss out and so do others. **ILLUS: Balance of our physical bodies same is true with our spiritual ones** When something gets out of whack and it messes up the whole body. We also can't grow the way Lord desires for us to grow if we are not a part of the body. We don't get the support that we need and we can't support others. Also don't learn these key life lessons & skills that come from being a part of a Church Family we'll talk about in a moment

3. We are Created to Help Connect Others to their Creator and Then Help Them Connect with a Community of Believers

We touched on this the first Sunday that we are thankful for our Story and that thankfulness should turn into an opportunity to share our story with others? Have you written your story? Have you shared that story? Are you praying that the Lord will open the door to share it with someone? We weren't created just for ourselves, or for our families, or even just the Church Family, but we were created to help others to connect with their Creator and see them come to know Christ and then become connected to a Church. That's our calling in this life – not to just have a job, have a family, make some money, have some kids, spend all that money, retire, grandkids, and then to heaven – you and I were created for far, far, more than that – it's all a part of that – it's not just that.

Why We Should Be Thankful for The Support of Our Church Family...

- ✓ **We Are Connected to Each Other** – because of our last name if you will – because we bear the name of Christ and therefore have that calling on our lives be deeply involved and connected in the life of the Local Church – Petal FBC. We are connected whether we think we are not, the question is how connected are we? The answer to that question informs the rest – how we give and receive this support.
- ✓ **We Are Called to Follow Godly Leadership**
To Follow Them, to Appreciate them, to Love them, to Obey them, and to Respect them, to Trust Them
- ✓ **We Can Be At Peace With One Another**
We are called and commanded here in other places to be at peace with one another – in other words to be unified together, to be of the same, mind, heart and soul. We aren't unified when we are not connected – in fact it brings disharmony instead of peace. If we are going to be the Church that He desires for us to be and for us to be able to truly be a support for each other then we must be at peace – which means we must do our part to make certain there is peace. **Where do you need peace?**
- ✓ **We Can Be Challenged By Others – Accountable**
The call here is admonish the unruly and this refers to a leader's call to

Speak into the life of someone who is unruly, gone astray. I want to expand this a little and let us see that support is accountability – someone to challenge us, to hold our feet to the fire, to ask us the tough questions in our lives and when we do go astray to be there to walk alongside of us and help us get back on the right track. We all need people to speak the truth in love into our lives. **Who can hold you accountable in your life and who can you do the same for as well?**

✓ **We Are Cared For By Others**

We all have at some point or another or if not we will need to be cared for by others- we will find ourselves having the opportunity to care for others too. It goes both ways. We will all be weak at some point – it's what makes us human and realize we need the Lord and that we also need others. Sometimes is a spiritual weakness, an emotional need, a physical need. Do you allow others to care for you – are in a place where you are known and can be care for? Are you being a person of encouragement to others – your presence, your words, your text? We find that best in our LifeGroups. **Who can you help that is weak?**

✓ **We Are Carried By Others – Support, hold us up – Bear our**

burdens Sometimes it goes far beyond just being fainthearted, a place of weakness, but a place of that we don't need to be just encouraged and care for, but instead we need others to come alongside us and help to carry us – to get on one side and someone on the other and help carry us off the field like an injured football player. These are those difficult moments that catch us by surprise or they are expected but are so heavy that we need others to be Jesus in the flesh to us. However, if we are not connected this is difficult for those who are not! It's also for those who are falling spiritually and we don't want them to fall – we are there to help pick them up and get them back on the right track! Whose burden do you need to help carry or support?

✓ **We Can Check (Practice) Our Patience**

This is another one we can't practice or do if we are not a part of a community of faith! We all need patience – one of the characteristics that makes us more like the Lord. Aren't you and grateful for the patience of God in our lives. Then how patient should would be with each other? This is not a choice but a command. It means we give each

other some grace and room to mess up and be deeply patient with each other's weaknesses! **Who do you need to show patience too?**

- ✓ **We Are Compelled To Forgive** - never repay evil, do good
Again another we can't do if we go it alone – we don't learn how to forgive others nor do we learn how to ask for and accept forgiveness of others. Again another command given but one that is not easy to do outside of the grace of God on display in each of our lives. How much more like Christ can we be than when we forgive each other. None of us are perfect so how can we not forgive each other? We must and I believe the world takes note when we forgive and ask forgiveness of each other. That's not the way the world operates! **Who do you need to forgive or ask forgiveness from?**

- ✓ **We Can Be Cheered On By Others – Encourage – rejoice – Vs 11,14, 16,**
I don't think there is anyone in here who wouldn't say – nah, I have all the encouragement I need. I'm just fine. No way! We all need it and desire it. It helps our spirit and souls so much! Not only that, we need people to bear our burdens with us but it's also great to have others to not only encourage but to celebrate life's victories with us and it makes it far sweeter! **Who have you encouraged lately? Have you shared that victory or answer to prayer with others so they can rejoice with you?**

- ✓ **We Are Prayed For By Others**
I know this goes without saying, but people can't pray for us if they don't know what's going on in our lives. We have to share our lives together – 1 Thessalonians 2:8 We all need others praying for us – it makes a huge difference – and I don't just mean that it's on the prayer list but that we pray right now with someone or call them tomorrow and check on them and pray with them. I pray that we become a church that is prayerfully dependent and it is something that happens all the time! **Where do you need others to pray for you? Who are you praying for?**