***Lesson Twenty-Three***

**1 Thessalonians 5:12-13**

**Love Your Spiritual Leaders**

**1.** In this passage of practical instruction for the church Paul begins by instructing the church body regarding their attitude and relationship toward their church leaders. In v. 12-3 Paul provides two instructions to the congregation concerning their spiritual leaders, ***that you appreciate*** (*oida*—#1492) ***. . . and that you esteem*** (*hēgeomai*—#2233) ***them***. Define these terms.

 ***appreciate*** (*oida*—#1492)—

 ***esteem*** (*hēgeomai*—#2233)

**2.** It is interesting that for as highly as Paul has praised the Thessalonians in this letter that he would now write these instructions regarding interpersonal problems that had obviously arisen within the Thessalonian congregation. Why, even in such a good, strong church, would there be conflict and controversy? What are some of the reasons for conflict in a church body?

**3.** In v. 12 Paul lists **3 reasons** the Thessalonians were exhorted to ***appreciate*** their leaders. What do each of these reasons teach us?

 **a.** The spiritual leaders ***diligently labor*** (*kopiaō*—#2872) ***among you***

 **b.**  The spiritual leaders ***have charge over*** (*proistēmi*—#4291) ***you in the Lord***

 **c.** The spiritual leaders ***give you instruction*** (*noutheteō*—#3560)

**4.** In v. 13 Paul gives the second instruction regarding the attitude of the congregation toward their spiritual leaders . . . ***that you esteem them very highly in love***. In this instruction Paul uses two superlatives to describe what our ***esteem*** of our leaders should be . . . ***very highly***. What type of attitude do this describe?

**5.** Paul then adds a further description of how we are to ***esteem*** our leaders . . . ***very highly in love***. What does the addition of ***love*** teach us about our ***very high esteem*** of our leaders?

**6.** Finally, at the end of v. 13, Paul instructs us on the reason we should ***esteem them very highly in love . . . because of their work***. What ***work*** is Paul referring to?

**7.** What are some very practical ways that we can ***esteem*** our leaders?

**8.** What do these two verses teach us about what our relationship should be toward our spiritual leaders? What happens when this doesn’t happen?