

2 Thessalonians 3:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

Analysis

Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us—we command (parangellomen, παραγγέλλομεν, military order) **in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ** (Christ's authority, not Paul's). The command: **withdraw yourselves from** (stellesthai hymas apo, στέλλεσθαι ὑμᾶς ἀπό, avoid, shun) **every brother that walketh disorderly** (ataktōs, ἀτάκτως, 'out of rank,' like undisciplined soldiers).

And not after the tradition (paradosin, παράδοσιν, apostolic teaching)—they've rejected instruction. Church discipline requires separating from professing believers who persist in sin. This isn't excommunication (v. 15 calls them 'brother') but social distancing to induce shame and repentance. Love sometimes requires withdrawal.

Historical Context

Some Thessalonians, believing Christ's return was imminent, quit working and became burdens on the church (cf. 1 Thess. 4:11-12, 5:14). This was disorderly—violating apostolic instruction to work. Paul mandates discipline to protect the church's testimony and resources.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What 'disorderly' behavior in fellow Christians requires your loving confrontation?
2. How do you balance grace toward struggling believers with necessary church discipline?
3. Why is withdrawal from fellowship sometimes more loving than continued association?

Interlinear Text

Παραγγέλλομεν δὲ ὑμῖν ἀδελφοῦ ἐν ὀνόματι τοῦ
we command Now you brethren in the name G3588
G3853 G1161 G5213 G80 G1722 G3686

κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ στέλλεσθαι ὑμᾶς ἀπὸ¹
Lord of our Jesus Christ that ye withdraw yourselves from G575
G2962 G2257 G2424 G5547 G4724 G5209 G575

παντὸς ἀδελφοῦ ἀτάκτως περιπατοῦντος καὶ μὴ κατὰ²
every brethren disorderly that walketh and not after G2596
G3956 G80 G814 G4043 G2532 G3361 G2596

τὴν παράδοσιν ἣν παρέλαβεν παρ' ἡμῶν
the tradition which he received of of our G2257
G3588 G3862 G3739 G3880 G3844 G2257

Additional Cross-References

2 Thessalonians 3:7 (Parallel theme): For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

Romans 16:17 (Parallel theme): Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

1 Thessalonians 5:14 (Parallel theme): Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.

Colossians 3:17 (References Jesus): And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

1 Thessalonians 4:1 (References Jesus): Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.

2 Thessalonians 2:15 (Parallel theme): Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

1 Corinthians 5:4 (References Jesus): In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Corinthians 11:2 (Parallel theme): Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.

2 Timothy 3:5 (Parallel theme): Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Ephesians 4:17 (References Lord): This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,