

2 Thessalonians 3:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

Analysis

For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you—yourselves know (autoi oidate, αὐτοὶ οἶδατε) appeals to firsthand observation. **How ye ought to follow us** (pōs dei mimeisthai hēmas, πῶς δεῖ μιμεῖσθαι ἡμᾶς, 'how it is necessary to imitate us')—apostolic example provides the pattern.

For we behaved not ourselves disorderly (ouk ētaktēsamen, οὐκ ἡτακτήσαμεν, 'we were not out of order')—during Paul's Thessalonian ministry, he worked to support himself. Leaders model proper conduct before demanding it from followers. Paul's authority rested partly on his exemplary behavior. Imitation learning was central to ancient discipleship.

Historical Context

Unlike wandering philosophers who expected financial support, Paul voluntarily worked (probably tentmaking, Acts 18:3) to avoid burdening new converts and to model Christian work ethic. This demonstrated the gospel's power to transform laborers, not create dependents.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What Christian leader provides a compelling example worth imitating in your life?
2. How does your work ethic either honor or dishonor the gospel before unbelievers?
3. Why must spiritual leaders model the behavior they command before their teaching carries full weight?

Interlinear Text

αὐτοὶ	γὰρ	οἶδατε	πῶς	δεῖ	μιμεῖσθαι	ἡμᾶς	ὅτι	οὐκ
yourselves	For	know	how	ye ought	to follow	us	for	not
G846	G1063	G1492	G4459	G1163	G3401	G2248	G3754	G3756
ἡτακτήσαμεν	ἐν	ὑμῖν						
ourselves disorderly	among	you						
G812	G1722	G5213						

Additional Cross-References

2 Thessalonians 3:6 (Parallel theme): 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.

2 Thessalonians 3:9 (Parallel theme): Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us.

1 Corinthians 4:16 (Parallel theme): Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

1 Corinthians 11:1 (Parallel theme): Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

Philippians 3:17 (Parallel theme): Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

Titus 2:7 (Parallel theme): In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works:
in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

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