

# Categories of Care

I Thessalonians 5:14-15

## I. God calls each of us to care and forbear with others in ways that reflect the power of the gospel

### A. We are to admonish the idle

II Thessalonians 3: 10 For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. 11 For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. 12 now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

### B. We are to encourage the fainthearted

II Corinthians 1:8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. 9 Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.

Isaiah 35: 3 Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. 4 Say to those who have an anxious heart, 'Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God...He will come and save you.'

### **C. We are to help the weak**

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

### **D. We are to be patient with them all**

*“In person ministry, the sin of the person you are helping will eventually be revealed in your relationship. If you are ministering to an angry person, at some point that anger will be directed at you. If you are helping a person who struggles with trust, at some point she will distrust you. A manipulative person will seek to manipulate you. A depressed person will tell you he tried everything you’ve suggested and it didn’t work. You can’t stand next to a puddle without eventually being splashed by its mud.” –Paul Tripp*

I Cor. 12: 4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;[b] 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Ephesians 4: 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.