

1 Thess. 5:12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;

1Th 5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn (admonish) them that are unruly...

### **Unruly**

The Greek word, *ataktos* for unruly or wayward was often used in a military sense. It carries the idea of a soldier who is out of line, out of rank, or guilty of disorderly conduct; Insubordinate, non-submissive, disobeying orders, not following through on his duty. It eventually came to mean anybody who doesn't follow through on his responsibility. Also *ataktos* would designate a loafer or a quitter, one who is idle, lazy, invalid, and apathetic. It can also mean someone who doesn't do his duty not only out of apathy but someone who doesn't do his duty out of a rebellion.

In reference to being wayward, we notice when persons are in line;

- They understand their spiritual duty and are willing to do it.
- Does whatever God's gifted them to do, gets involved in the service whether it means that I'm serving the Lord with my gifts or I'm giving as God as prospered me.
- Persons who are behind the leadership of the church, supporting the direction we're going, onboard, participating, and are a part of God's move.

This is the kind of person that makes the church move and grow.

Disorderly people reject being in line. Refuse their duty possibly because they don't care. It may be that they're not doing their duty because they're angry and rebellious and contentious. They're just not supportive. They're not a part of what's going on. Sometimes, they hang on the fringe for a while, and finally, they are so bitter they just leave and go somewhere else. They're the benchwarmers in an athletic sense; often time's benchwarmers become critics.

Manner of a "benchwarmer"- The people who do the most criticizing are the people who fail to do their duty.

A football player's commentary, "I can remember those sitting on the bench through a football season, as I had the privilege of being a starting running back, and there were a few others that didn't start because I did. And, at first, they would be somewhat encouraging to me, thinking they were going to get their moment, and when their moment wasn't coming then they would be secretly wishing I would break my leg, and when I didn't break my leg, they would then begin to take it out on the idiocy of the

coach who didn't know talent when he saw it, and, eventually, they would root for the other team."

That's the progression. People who resist involvement, who never want to get beyond the audience mentality either for apathy sake or for rebellion sake. At worst they come to watch and to criticize, or at best, do nothing.

These are people who do not have or want any accountability. Sometimes, you can watch a person, who becomes critical; systematically move to the back of the church sanctuary. This is a culpable laziness. There are people that desire to hang on the fringe or just on the edge. They are barely in step. That's intolerable conduct in a growing church. How does the Bible say deal with it? Admonish them. There's no formula. There's no program. There's no system.

The word admonish comes from the Greek verb *noutheteō* which means to put sense into it, in purposes for our discussion it can refer to coming alongside the person and putting some sense into their head. One writer says, "It is the idea of coming to someone, who is following a path that ultimately ends in serious consequences, and instructing him about the inevitability of those consequences." In other words, the word can be translated to warn someone. It doesn't have the idea of distant judgementalism.

Acts 20:17-38; 2 Chron 19:10; Isaiah 58:1; Ezek. 3:18

Giving admonishment is not criticism from a vantage point of superiority. It has the sense of coming along closely and intimately and showing someone the consequences of their conduct. It is observing a person's indifference and unfaithfulness to the church. Their lack of involvement in ministry and negativity. Bringing to their recognition that, "if you continue in this path, there are consequences, and I don't think you want those consequences nor do I want you to experience those consequences."

Admonishment is like the warning that Paul gave to the Ephesian elders with tears, according to Acts 20:31. There's a passion in it. There's a hurt in it that says I don't want you to keep doing that because the end of that road is major consequences. For God will chasten such apathies, such rebellion, insubordination, such disorderly conduct.

When you truly love somebody, you don't hesitate to warn them. I don't hesitate to do that with my wife and my children and the people that are close to me in my life. Get into line. Not because there's some agenda that I've got, but I don't want you to deal with the consequences of living like that. I want you to know the fullness of God's blessing, the fullness of God's provision. This is a necessary confrontation.