

The Building Blocks of Confidence

I Thessalonians 5:12-18

1. Our Leadership - 5:12–13

- The word for “work” Paul uses here has the idea of manual labor, or toil and sweat.
- Paul doesn’t say to crown your pastors and elders as kings, but to “respect” them.

- The word for respect means to “know” someone so well that you appreciate their true worth.
- Effective leadership and effective following translates into harmonious relationships.

- We build a confident church by nurturing *respectful* relationships with our spiritual leaders.

Community



Community
Crowd

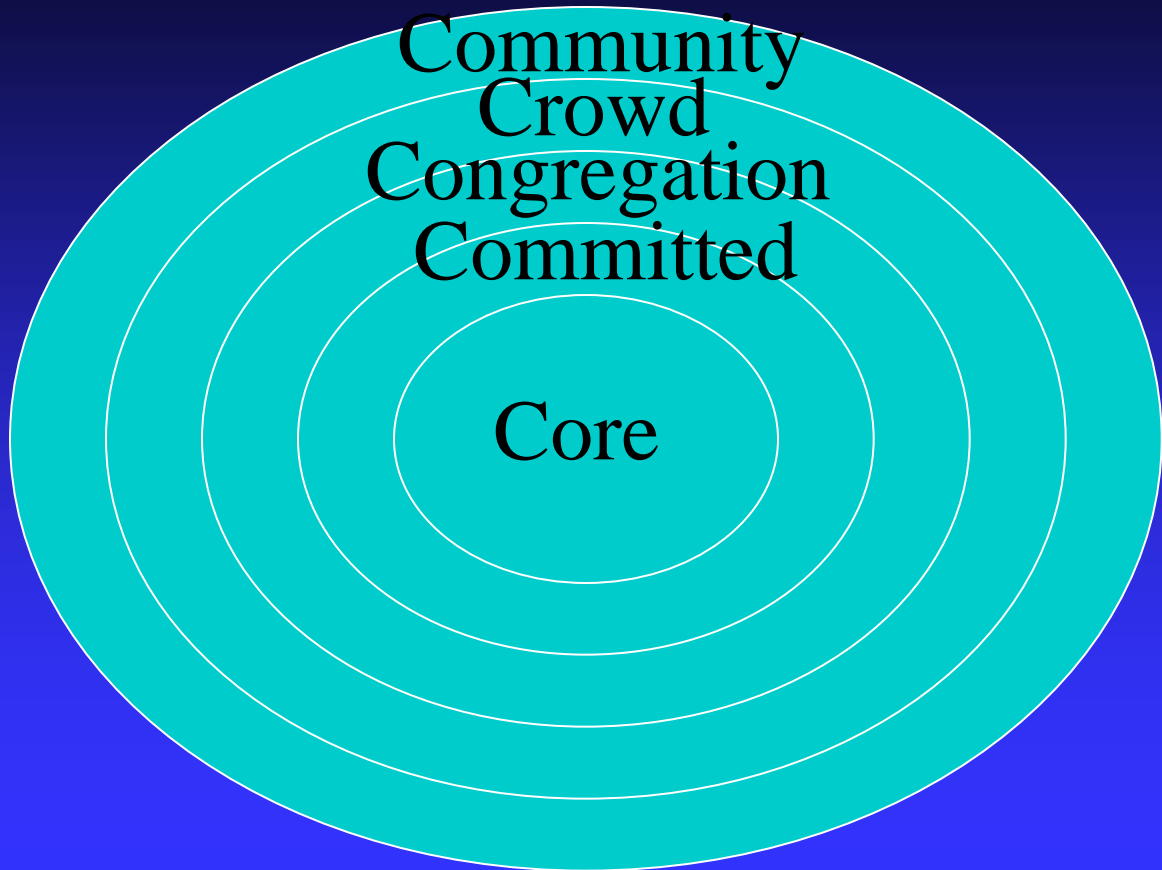




Community
Crowd
Congregation



Community
Crowd
Congregation
Committed



Core

Community
Crowd
Congregation
Committed

2. Our Ministry - 5:14–15

- The word “warn” here means to “admonish” and it usually refers to cautioning people about destructive and immoral behavior.

- This word “idle” was originally a military word that described someone who was out of formation or who abandoned their post, what we would call AWOL.
- The word for “encourage” here means to “console” or “show tenderness”.

- If the slackers are the “won’t do” people of the church, the timid are the “want to” people.
- The word “weak” here is probably referring to spiritual weakness.
- The follower of Jesus is to always seek the good, not echo the evil.

- We build a confident church by getting personally *involved* in people's lives.
- Ministry is simply serving God's *purposes* in other people's lives.

3. Our Devotion - 5:16–18

- What these three commands all have in common is that they're all God-focused.
- We build a confident church by enthusiastically embracing God's will in our circumstances.

4. Our Direction - 5:19–22

- The word “test” means to sift through something, to learn its genuineness, to closely examine something, to determine if its real or not.
- We build a confident church by biblically discerning God’s guidance.

- Biblical discernment results in a sense of vision, a sense of knowing what's next for our congregation.

5. Our Prospects - 5:23–28

- Sanctification isn't something we're doing—
- Sanctification is fundamentally a work of God.

- We build a confident church by trusting in God's faithfulness for our spiritual *progress*.