**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. March 12, 2017**

**The Internal Workings Of A Healthy Church**

1 Thessalonians 5:12-15

**Key truth:** Disciples grow effectively in a healthy church environment.

**The Role of Church Leaders –** Serve Faithfully

1. Model the message. Mark 10:45, John 21:15-17

 A. Leadership is a privilege given by Jesus Christ.

 B. Character is more important than competency.

2. Fulfill the ministry Jesus Christ has called us to.

 A. Competency is vital to fulfilling your ministry.

 B. Three things Paul emphasized for leaders:

 1. Labor – work hard among you. 1 Timothy 5:17

 2. Oversee – care for the flock.

 3. Admonish – teach and instruct in righteousness.

**The Church’s Response to good Leaders:** Honor your leaders

1. The church has a responsibility to identify and follow

 godly leaders.

 A. Imitate their faith, Hebrews 13:7

 B. Share material things with them. Galatians 6:6-10,

 C. Support them financially. 1 Corinthians 9:3-14, 1 Tim. 5:17

**The Church’s Response to each other:** Live in peace with one another.

1. No church can thrive in the midst of hostility.

2. Be accountable for each other’s spiritual growth.

3. Lower your expectations of the perfect church

 member.

4. Be intentional in expressing your love.

**Taking it beyond the walls:** Pray for church leaders and show love to one another.

**Connection Group Study Questions**

**Quick Review:** Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

**Getting to Know You**: Have you ever found yourself angry at God for the failings of His servants?

**Read ACTS 20:18-21:** Paul lived openly among the churches he pastored. That allowed them to observe and follow his godly example. Why is it important that leaders are not distant from the people they serve?

**Read Philippians 3:17-21:** Are you helped by your spiritual leaders or dependent upon them? Is there a difference? Why are why not?

**Read Acts 17:11** Notice how even the Apostle Paul encouraged people not to blindly follow his leadership.

When we begin to blindly follow spiritual leaders instead of God what happens?

**Read 1 Samuel 24:1-7:** David gives us an amazing example of seeing the best in others as Saul, his King, attempts to take his life. What perspectives can you gain from David to help you see and believe the best in others?

**Read Romans 12:14-20:** Have you experienced hurt or pain from a fellow Christian? How did you address the issue? Did you respond in a Christ like manner?