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THE ASHLAND  
CHURCH OF CHRIST IN 2009

***“Note Those Who So Walk”***

Philippians 3:17

2Thessalonians 3:14

***“Note Those Who So Walk”***

I. ***“Greet Andronicus and Junia, my countrymen and my fellow prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me”*** (Romans 16:7).

A. The context of Romans 16:3-16 is a list of names that, for the most part, mean very little to you and me today.

B. The principle, however, of acknowledging people by name is one that we would do well to adopt (see 1Corinthians 16:14-18).

C. Andronicus and Junia are ‘of note among the apostles.’

D. Apparently, they were very special to Paul. They were in prison with Paul.

E. The Holy Spirit, through Paul, saw fit to notice these individuals.

II. ***“Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern”*** (Philippians 3:17).

A. See 1Corinthians 11:1 and Galatians 4:12.

B. What is a pattern? It is a guide or blueprint to go by. Paul says those who walk as he walks are patterns.

C. See Philippians 1:27.

D. This passage helps us to understand what Paul means by the word ‘note.’ He uses the word ‘example’ (related to ‘pattern’) in this passage.

E. The point is that we notice and acknowledge those who are doing what is right.

III. ***“Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them”*** (Romans 16:17).

A. We know that division is wrong. Jesus prayed extensively for unity in John 17.

B. Jesus also said that His coming would cause divisions (Matthew 10:35).

C. The reconciliation is seen in the type of division that is caused—  
“...contrary to the doctrine which you learned...”

D. Some have stated that Paul’s command regarding these men and women (“and avoid them”) seems rather harsh but they need to be avoided because we don’t want to be dragged down (see 1Corinthians 5:6 and Galatians 5:9).

E. This reaction is confirmed for us in the final passage we will consider.

IV. ***“And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed”*** (2Thessalonians 3:14).

A. Jeremiah spoke of people who did not know how to blush or be ashamed (Jeremiah 6:16 and 8:12).

B. When is shame a good thing? When we have done things that are wrong.

C. It seems there are two reasons we avoid men of disobedience:

1. It protects our own faith – a little leaven leavens a whole lump (see 1Corinthians 5:6).

2. It causes them to be ashamed. They should be ashamed for the wrong they have done. Shame can lead to sorrow and sorrow to repentance (2Corinthians 7:10).

D. We do not avoid everyone. We avoid fallen disobedient brethren.

E. We take notice so that we can respond to their actions.