

Better Than a Bar

1 Thessalonians 5:14-15

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Part 6 of a series entitled, "Picking Up The Pieces"

The Principle:

The church ought to be *the* place that accepts people as they are but cares about them enough not to leave them there.

I. The Conduct of a Caring Community (14a)

#1: Warns people who need to be warned

- The Apathetic - a lack of desire
- The Rebellious - a lack of obedience

#2: Encourages people who need to be encouraged

- The Overwhelmed - discouraged by life ahead
- The Overlooked - discouraged by life alone

#3: Helps people who need to be helped

- The Weary - a short-term lack of strength
- The Weak - a long-term lack of strength

II. The Culture of a Caring Community (14b-15)

#1: **Patience:** People have the time they need to grow

#2: **Forgiveness:** People have the space they need to fail

#3: **Acceptance:** People have the support they need to succeed

So now what...

- **You:** You are not alone, so get plugged in
- **Us:** We are in this together, so let's care for each other