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**You Are Your Brother’s Keeper?**

1. ***Thessalonians 3:1-5***

“That’s none of my business.” “They can make their own decisions.” “I don’t agree with them, but who am I to judge?” “I’m not sticking my nose where it doesn’t belong.” Underneath all of these statements is an assumption: the choices of others ultimately make no difference to me. I am not responsible for them. “I am not my brother’s keeper.” God, on the other, hand, feels very differently. God wants you to be invested in the spiritual growth and success of others. God tells us that we are our brother’s keeper.

**The spiritual success of your brothers and sisters should matter to you.**

1. **Your concern for other believers should mean sacrificing for them (vv 1-2).**
2. **You should be willing to sacrifice ease.** Life got a lot harder for Paul working the mission solo. But he was ready to be deprived of help if it meant supporting other believers.
3. **You should be willing to sacrifice your plans.** One of the things you pick up on in Paul’s missions endeavors is how fluid they end up being. Investing in others will likewise require flexibility on your part.
4. **You should be willing to sacrifice what is important to you.** Timothy meant a lot to Paul, and Paul wanted the Thessalonians to know that so that they knew just how much he was sacrificing to send them.
5. **Your concern for other believers should mean stabilizing them (vv 3-4).**
6. **We must establish people in the faith.** This involves instruction and encouragement. We have to tell people what God wants of them and we have to encourage them to keep living for God even when life gets tough.
7. **We must prepare people for suffering.** Suffering is going to come, and we must be do our part to encourage and prepare others as they encourage and prepare us.
8. **Your concern for other believers should mean sticking with them (v 5).**
9. **You should fear their spiritual failure.**

Twice Paul says “When we could bear it no longer” He feared that Satan might have tempted them (and they failed).

1. **You should fear a wasted investment.**

As shocking as it might sound, Paul was afraid that his efforts would be wasted if the Thessalonians had failed. There is the real possibility that those we invest in might fail, and that thought should rightfully concern us.