

Was Paul Cold-Hearted, or Was He Just?

- Is 2 Thessalonians 3:10 harsh? Why or why not? Is it fair? Is it just? In other words, is justice served through enforcement of such a policy?
- What are the benefits and potential benefits of having and enforcing this policy?
- What are the costs and potential costs of *not* upholding and enforcing it?
- Many today would say such a policy is lacking in compassion, but how compassionate would it be to reward laziness?
- Paul did not say "If anyone *doesn't* work..." but "If anyone *will not* work" (emphasis added). Some cannot work for various reasons. Paul was not saying they should be denied food.
- Discuss: Why might this seem harsh, despite the fact it targets laziness and sloth? We live in a day when incentives for taking responsibility are deemed harsh and unfair, and we need to change that! We hear a great deal about injustice today, and usually the point being made is how much people lack. Have those who lack various resources been treated unfairly? Maybe so, but maybe not. This is the point we're making here: In those specific instances when people who can work refuse to work, shouldn't they lack? In such cases, this is true justice!