

WAYS TO ENCOURAGE

Introduction:

All of us appreciate a good word of encouragement, we all relish the hand shakes and the “good jobs” although we do not seek or long for them. I’ve found, it brings a deeper satisfaction for me to be the one who is doing or giving the encouragement.

Job said: “I have heard many such things, Miserable Comforters are ye all.” **Job 16:2**

Background: Vs. 1-11

Key Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:11-23 **Encouragers Checklist: Vs. 11**

1. Build Each Other Up....

Romans 15:2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.

1 Cor 14:12 So also you, since you are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek to abound for the edification of the church.

Heb 3:13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Take time to POINT out the Qualities that you see in People...

-Not asking you to lie or flatter, but perhaps look a little closer, BUILD @ UP!

Vs. 12

2. Respect Spiritual Authority

Few things can erode away and even destroy a congregation quicker than a lack of respect for Church Leadership.

--Did you hear about what Deacon so and so said?

--I really don't agree with Mr. Elder, he doesn't see things my way....

Truthfully, most of the times when we complain against leadership it is for SELFISH

REASON... may not see eye to eye... things to remember:

1 Tim 3:1-2 is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, above reproach, blameless as KJV says, does not mean sinless, but living in accord with the will of God!

Luke 1:6 And they were both righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord

1 Tim 5:19 Do not receive an accusation against an elder except on the basis of two or three witnesses

-Remember, an elder **has only the responsibilities and duties that God has given him,**
to **DISRESPECT an Elder is to DISRESPECT GOD!**

-Suggestion:

Maybe instead of Criticizing I Should...

-Find **ways to Co-operate, Look for things that I can do** to help them!

-Let them know they have your **FULL SUPPORT IN THE LORD!**

Vs. 13

3. Live in Peace

Ps 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brothers to dwell together in unity!

-Where you rather attend Services? Harmony is promoted through Peace....**or...**

Every man for Himself, Arguing Bickering /Stupid ? WHY PROBLEM?

Eph 4:1-3 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love, **3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**

Rom 14:19 So then let us pursue the things which **make for peace and the building up** of one another.

-A Congregation that Learns to maintain Peace and build up each other.... experiences Great Blessings from the Lord.

-I must SEARCH for ways to get along with each other! Fight the urge to get upset, resist the darts of the Devil which aim directly at your heart! NOT EASY... especially in a world of such diversity.... but it is Necessary!

Vs. 14

4. Admonish the Unruly or Idle

Heb 10:23-25 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; 24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the

day drawing near.

2 Thess 3:13-15 But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good. And if anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that man and do not associate with him, so that he may be put to shame. **And yet do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.**

Gal 6:1 Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a **one in a spirit of gentleness**; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted

-When we find Brothers/Sisters who are sitting around doing nothing, or maybe even doing the things they shouldn't.....great Responsibility.

Remember the **Parable of the Vineyard & Workers**, Master goes out and finds men men standing around not doing anything....and **he offers them WORK!**

Matt 20:6 Why have you been standing here idle all day long?'

(DID NOT CRITICIZE OR ATTACK!)

Wise Man Solomon Said: **"The Righteous is a guide to his neighbor..." Pr 12:26**

-Look for ways to get other involved within the Body

-Challenge someone to work side by side with you in your endeavors!

Vs. 14

5. Encourage the Timid (Somewhat related, diff between the idle & timid) Timid

--Have you noticed, there are often people who you have to treat with "kid-gloves"

People you may even have to "baby them along" every now and then....

1 Thess 2:10-12 You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; I just as you know how we were **exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children**, so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory

Isa 35:3 Encourage the exhausted, and strengthen the feeble.

Heb 12:12 Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble,

1 Thess 2:7-8 But we proved to be gentle among you, **as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children.** **8** Having thus a fond affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.

When you're dealing with someone who is timid, not necessarily embarrassed by God's word, they need to be encouraged and reminded as to God's BLESSINGS and what may be at stake!

Vs. 14

6. Help the Weak

2 Cor 1:3-4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort; **4** who comforts us in all our affliction so that **we may be able to comfort those** who are in **any affliction** with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

We do a good job of being there for our brothers **physical needs...**

-Sick, Hospitalized, Loss of a Loved One, Loose Job...

-What about when they are **SPIRITUALLY AFFLICTED? any affliction**

Ecc 4:9-11 Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor.

For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up.

-Helping the **WEAK**, means showing them support through all of their infirmities, and as the Lord has his way...he will provide them strength through weakness and they will in turn be able to help those around them. **NEAT the way LORD PLANS IT**

Vs. 14

7. Show Patience to Everyone

As I watch my children it's easy to see that Children mimic what they see. **EVEN** though they are both of my blood...they are different as **NIGHT AND DAY** in some ways.

Britt is a fairly patient young man...

Whereas Brayden has problems maintaining his Composure!

-What have I learned? Britt is more like me and Brayden takes after Momma! **NOOO.** Patience is **DEVELOPED**, I must help them, and encourage them!

Eph 4:31-32 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

--It isn't easy to develop patience for even those we love and cherish...

-Granted we have a greater degree of tolerance for those close to us. but DO WE

-Show Patience with EVERYONE? Am I easily aggravated, irritated, or bothered

by certain people, maybe even brothers & sisters in CHRIST

2 Tim 4:2-3 preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke,

exhort, (guide, instruct, encourage) with **great patience** and instruction.

--LACK OF PATIENCE is a SIGN of an UNFORGIVING HEART! It is the heart that

has a low tolerance, a heart that is unwilling to put an offense aside, therefore

it lashes out and attack! AND IT WILL DESTROY a CONGREGATION!~

So what do we DO???

Go home and write down the Situations that anger you, devise plan & PRAY

Vs. 15

8. Guard against Revenge, Promote Kindness

Sure we know Romans 12:17 **“NEVER RENDER EVIL FOR EVIL”** But are we often tempted to think how nice it would be to pay someone back? Maybe we've **even smiled and relished when** those who are enemies have stumbled!

Prov 24:17 Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles;

Ps 38:20 And those who repay evil for good, They oppose me, because I follow what is **good.”**

--As Children of God we are responsible for avoiding revenge and PROMOTING KINDNESS, with what we do and what we say.

Eph 4:29 Let no unwholesome **word proceed from your mouth**, but only such a word

as is **good for edification according** to the need of the moment, that it may

give grace to those who hear.

Solution?

-Search and Pray for ways to do good things when you are insulted

-Create a list of Kind things you can do when tempted to STRIKE BACK!

-Friend, Wesley... showed me a list (2 pages) loaded with ideas of kindness

which would help him to be a better Christian!

Conclusion 1:

We are all familiar with the verse which tells us to edify, encourage, build one another up with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs....but what about the verses preceding it?

Eph 5:15-17 Therefore **be careful how you walk**, not as unwise men, but as wise, **making the most of your time, because the days are evil.** So then do not be foolish, **but understand what the will of the Lord is.**

Simply Put....

-The will of the Lord is that we find ways to Encourage one Another, not
wasting our abilities tearing down the Lords Body

Vs. 16

9. Rejoice Evermore

Vs. 17

10. Pray Without Ceasing

Jude 20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith; praying in the Holy Spirit;

Vs. 18

11. Live Thankfully

Vs. 19

12. Do Not Quench the Spirit

Vs. 20

13. Heed Gods Proven Word

1 Tim 1:3-4 As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus, in order that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith

Vs. 22-24 Avoid Evil

14. Allow God to Keep You Pure

Vs. 25

15. Pray for the Brotherhood

Eph 4:11-13 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹²for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

In Him,

Byron