

Admonish, Serve, and Encourage One Another

God gives several commands about how Christians are to serve one another.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.” Colossians 3:16.

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” 1 Peter 4:10.

“Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11.

These are commands from God found in His Word. As with all of His commands, when we obey them, we will glorify God and work for our own good and the good of others. When we approach our brothers and sisters in Christ with the right “heart” attitude-- one that desires to glorify God, then admonishing, serving, and encouraging other Christians will demonstrate God’s love within the church. It requires effort on our part to extend ourselves in love.

As you begin this study, ask God to teach you how to admonish, serve, and encourage other Christians.

Admonish One Another

1. Romans 15:14 says, “I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another.”

A. What does Paul tell the Roman Christians that he is convinced that they can do?

B. What two qualifications does he say that they have for doing it?

1. _____

2. _____

2. Vine’s Bible Dictionary defines the Greek word for admonish as “to put in mind” or “training by word.” Look up and write down the dictionary definition of admonish:

3. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 say, “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

A. What is the standard we are to use for knowing if a behavior needs to be corrected?

B. From these verses, what is the goal of correcting or reprovng another person?

4. What is to be the goal for any admonishment or correction to a brother or sister in Christ according to Ephesians 4:15?

5. In 1 Corinthians 10:23 Paul says ““Everything is permissible” --but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible"—but not everything is constructive.’

In this passage, Paul was drawing a conclusion about food offered to idols. This applies to more than just food, but not to literally everything.

A. Give an example of a behavior that, for you, is permissible, but not beneficial or constructive.

B. Could this be beneficial or constructive for anyone?

C. Name something that God’s Word says is not permissible and the scripture reference if you know it.

6. According to 2 Timothy 3:16-17, quoted in question three at the top of this page, upon what should we base our admonishments of others?

7. Read Acts 20:17-21 and tell how Paul showed love for the Ephesian elders.

8. 1 Corinthians 4:14 says, "I am not writing this to shame you, but to warn you, as my dear children." What does this verse say our motivation to admonish should be?

9. Read Colossians 1:28-29. What is the goal of admonishing (your version may say counseling or teaching) one another?

10. Colossians 3:16 says, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God."

A. According to this verse, admonishment can sometimes be preventive rather than corrective. What is the standard we are to use when we instruct others?

B. What do you need to do to have "the word of God dwell in you richly" so that you will be able to "admonish one another with all wisdom" when you see a Christian brother or sister heading toward ungodly conduct?

Serve One Another

11. In Mark 8: 34-35 Jesus said, ““If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.”

A. What do you think Jesus meant when He made this statement?

B. Serving the Lord may require a personal sacrifice of something important to you, such as goals, time, energy, finances, or goods. What work has Jesus called you to do for Him that you have refused to do? What is it that you do not want to give up to follow Him?

12. Read Matthew 25: 34-45. What do we learn about serving others:

13. In Galatians 5:19-21 what does Paul point to as acts of the sinful nature?

14. Read Galatians 5:22-26. According to verses 24-25 how will we live with each other if we are living in the Spirit of God?

15. Practically speaking, what does “serving one another” look like within the body of Christ? In his book “Building Up One Another,” Dr. Gene Getz suggests the following questions to examine our own service. Briefly note specific examples where applicable.

A. Am I expressing Christian love to others in the body of believers?

B. As a body, is there evidence of joy or happiness?

C. Is there a spirit of unity and peace with others in the church?

D. Am I patient with others in the church?

E. Am I kind in actions and in the attitudes that no one sees?

F. Am I doing concrete acts of goodness for others in the body?

G. Am I trustworthy? If I say I will help – do I help? If I say I will pray – do I pray?

H. Am I sensitive to the needs of others in the church?

I. Do I exercise self-control with my words and language?

J. Is there anything I am doing in excess that inhibits my ability to help or serve others?

K. 1 Peter 4:10 says “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” In what ways has God called you to serve others?

Encourage One Another

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11

16. What does Paul say is his purpose for writing in Colossians 2:2 and 4:8?

17. Paul teaches Titus that the qualifications for an elder in the church include that he “must hold firm to the trustworthy message as it has been taught so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it”. (Titus 1:9)

A. What does Paul mean by the “trustworthy message” and “sound doctrine”?

B. What is the elder to do with the trustworthy message and sound doctrine?

18. In 2 Timothy 4:2, Paul wrote to Timothy, and told him to, “Preach the Word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.”

A. What does Paul mean by “the Word”?

B. Look up definitions for the four things Paul told Timothy to do with the Word.

Preach: _____

Reprove: _____

Rebuke: _____

Exhort: _____

19. What is one way that you can use God’s word to encourage another believer in a time of difficulty or temptation?
