

ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

Romans 15:14

**In order for the church to function well,
we need to encourage one another.**

I. OUR QUALIFICATIONS - Romans 15:14

- We're able to warn each other

A. ATTITUDE: Full of goodness

1. Truly concerned: An empathy with the wanderer
2. Without corruption - See Matt. 7:3-5 and Rom. 14:13

B. APTITUDE: Filled with all knowledge

1. Accurately handling God's Word - Col. 3:16a
2. Providing scriptural support for any areas of concern

C. ABILITY: Able to admonish (or instruct) one another

1. Explanation: One who counsels, instructs, corrects, exhorts or warns
- Note I Thess. 2:11-12
2. Examples:
 - a. Warning of sin - Luke 22:31-32
 - b. Showing a fault - Matt. 18:15
 - c. Informing about falsehood - Acts 20:29-32
 - d. Restoring a transgressor - Gal. 6:1-2

D. ACCREDITATION: "I am convinced"

1. Paul's Perception: He is certain that Christians and churches can do this
2. God's Plan: Adequately equipping the congregation to admonish and instruct one another

E. APPLICATION

1. Reality
 - a. These warnings and admonitions involve risk ... people do not always respond favorably
 - b. These warnings and instructions are people-dependent and not pastor-dependent
2. Responses: A gracious gentleness must always be evident
 - a. I've heard you yelling at the kids ... Is everything alright?
 - b. You told me something different than I heard you tell them ... What's up?
 - c. Is there any possibility that you are becoming bitter because of this trial?
 - d. I saw your car at the liquor store ... do you have a drinking problem?

II. OUR COMMANDS - Hebrews 3:12-13

- We must watch out for each other

A. PAY ATTENTION TO OTHERS (12)

1. The Duty: See to it > Carefully note ... Be on the lookout ... Beware
2. The Dangers
 - a. Wrong devotion: A heart of unbelief ... a faltering faith
 - b. Wrong direction: Falling away from the living God

B. PARTNER WITH OTHERS (13)

1. Be present: Literally > Come alongside
2. Be prompt: Before the day is over
3. Be protective
 - a. So that none are deadened by sin - See II Sam. 12:1-12
 - b. So that none be deceived by sin - Gal. 2:11-14

C. PRACTICAL PARTICIPATION (Application)

1. I've noticed you've not been here for several weeks. Is everything OK?
2. Are you experiencing spiritual victories in your life?
3. Has that activity every tempted you to sin?

III. OUR COOPERATION - Hebrews 10:23-25

- We need to work with each other

A. CHOOSING (23)

1. A firm faith
2. A focus on God's faithfulness

B. CHEERING (24)

1. The Prompting: Ask how can we motivate or stir up each other?
2. The Particulars
 - a. How can we motivate each other's love? (godly attitude)
 - b. How can we motive each other's good deeds? (godly actions)

C. CHURCHING (25a)

1. Be Congregated: Don't abandon the assembling
2. Be Counter-cultural: Some make missing church a habit

D. COACHING (25b)

1. The Pattern: Encouraging one another
 - a. Coming alongside
 - b. Exp: Like a coach calling the player aside for instruction
2. The Passion: The end of the game is near!

E. CHALLENGING (Application)

1. Notice the talents or abilities of those around you
2. Examples:
 - a. You write beautifully ... maybe you can send encouragement notes
 - b. You're a good listener ... I think you'd be a good counselor
 - c. You have a wonderful voice ... Have you ever thought about joining the choir?
 - d. You seem to be pretty handy ... Maybe you should be a Trustee
 - e. You work well with kids ... Have you ever considered working in Awana?

CONCLUSION:

We will promote spiritual maturity in our church when we effectively encourage one another

As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love. - Ephesians 4:14-16

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