

Xenos Christian Fellowship
Christian Principles Unit 3, Week 3
Body-Life: Encouraging & Admonishing One Another

Introduction

Eph. 4:15 - . . . *speaking the truth in love*, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ . . .

1 Thess. 5:14* - And we urge you, brethren, *admonish* the unruly, *encourage* the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all men.

	Our Problem	God's Remedy	Definition
Encouragement			
Admonition			

Encouraging One Another

Parakaleo comes from the root *kaleo* ("to call") and the preposition *para* ("around").

Four Types of Encouragement: What does encouragement look like?

1. *Expressing belief in one's position and potential in Christ.*

- **Affirmation of position:**

1COR. 1:2 to the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their *Lord* and ours: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I thank my God always concerning you, for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, ^{1:5} that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge, ⁶ even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you, ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸ who shall also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

- Affirmation of potential:

John 1:42 - He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him, and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

2. *Recognizing significant accomplishments.*

Humans have an innate need to know that their accomplishments matter.

Paul was a master encourager and it is one of the keys to his great leadership.

1 Thess. 1:2-8 - We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers; constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you . . . You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything.

Philemon 1:4-7 - I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers, because I hear of your love, and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all the saints . . . For I have come to have much joy and comfort in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.

How is this different from flattery or manipulation?

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3. *Communicating God's faithfulness to the fallen and hurting.*

Gal. 6:2 - Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.

1 Thess. 4:14,18 - For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus . . . Therefore comfort one another with these words.

4. *Exhorting Christians to go on following Christ despite pain.*

Heb. 12:11-13 - All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness. Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, and make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.

Gal. 6:9,10 - And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

1 Peter 5: 9, 10 But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. 10 And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

How to Become an Effective Encourager

- *Be willing to receive encouragement.*

Qualification:

- *Take creative initiative.*

Heb. 10:24,25* - . . . and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 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.

Home group:

Spouse and close friends:

- *Become a good listener*

James 1:19 This you know, my beloved brethren. But let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger;

- *Use God's Word*

Rom. 15:4 - For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Titus 1:9 - . . . holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, that he may be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

Qualification

- *Practice, practice, practice!*

Three Common lies:

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See Acts 4:36- And Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means, Son of Encouragement),

ADMONISHING ONE ANOTHER

The most common Greek word for admonition, *noutheteo*, from the noun "mind" (*nous*) and the verb "put"/"place" (*tithemi*) means "to place upon the mind." This word and its Greek synonyms (*elegcho*; *epitimao*), are also translated "instruct," "convict," "correct," "reprove," "warn," "refute," "expose," and "rebuke."

All Christians should be willing and able to admonish as well as encourage.

Rom. 15:14* - And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able also to admonish one another.

- "Goodness"
- "Knowledge"

Col. 3:16 - Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another . . .

Mat 18:15 - And if your brother sins, go and reprove him in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

Why Admonition Is Unpopular

- *Cultural Pressure*

- *Past Experience*

- *Temperamental Weakness*

Receiving Admonition

- *Value friends who care enough to reprove you!*

Prov. 9:8 - Do not reprove a scoffer, lest he hate you. Reprove a wise man, and he will love you.

Prov 10:17 - He is on the path of life who heeds instruction, but he who forsakes reproof goes astray.

Prov 12:1 - Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.

Prov 13:18 - Poverty and shame will come to him who neglects discipline, but he who regards reproof will be honored.

Prov 15:5 - A fool rejects his father's discipline, but he who regards reproof is prudent.

Prov 15:32,33 - He who neglects discipline despises himself, but he who listens to reproof acquires understanding. The fear of the LORD is the instruction for wisdom, And before honor comes humility.

Prov 17:10 - A rebuke goes deeper into one who has understanding than a hundred blows into a fool.

Prov 24:24,25 - He who says to the wicked, "You are righteous," peoples will curse him, nations will abhor him; But to those who rebuke the wicked will be delight, and a good blessing will come upon them.

Prov 27:5,6 - Better is open rebuke than love that is concealed. Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.

Prov 29:1 - A man who hardens his neck after much reproof will suddenly be broken beyond remedy.

Eccles. 7:5 - It is better to listen to the rebuke of a wise man than for one to listen to the song of fools.

How did you treat the last person that reproved you? Do you think they will want to reprove you again?

Have you ever thanked someone for admonishing you?

- *Be suspicious of fleshly defensiveness on your part*

- *Focus on the content of the admonition*

In healthy close Christian relationships, there is *mutual* freedom and openness in this area. This kind of mutual accountability is to be highly valued. Consider the following questions as you review your own Christian friendships:

1. *Do they know they have the 'green light' to admonish you?*
2. *Do they feel the freedom to raise questions about issues that are not black and white?*
3. *Do they feel the freedom to kid you about your weak areas and besetting sins?*

Giving Admonition

1. *It requires wisdom and discernment.* Because of the complexity of human situations, it is impossible to prescribe a formula for when admonition is appropriate. **Prayerfully** consider the following questions as you decide what to do.
 - Are you honestly committed to seeking his good (Mt. 18:12-14; 21,22).
 - You may need to consider the following questions. They sometimes apply, sometimes don't; God often uses these considerations to express his wisdom on the issue.
 - Does the Bible clearly describe this issue as sin?
 - Do you know for a fact that the person did what you think, or is it hearsay?
 - Do you tend to be overly critical or overly soft in your dealings with others?
 - We should be especially careful about judging motives of others when their actions are not clearly wrong (1 Cor. 4:5).
 - How serious is the issue?
 - Is it a pattern or only a one-time occurrence?
 - Is there evidence that the person is working on this issue?
 - What is his/her role in the church?
 - Also consider asking the advice of other experienced Christian workers. Please read Appendix in *Loving God's Way* – p. 119 on Confidentiality in the Body of Christ.

2. *People are more receptive to admonition from one who is generally encouraging.*

Qualifications:

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3. *It should begin one-on-one and in private.*

Qualification:

4. *It should be specific and direct.*

5. *It should appeal to scripture.*

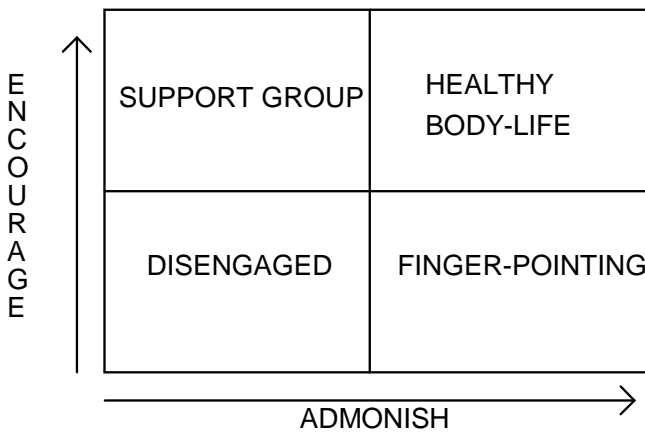
6. *Be patient rather than insisting on immediate response.*

7. *It should be practical and constructive when possible.*

Qualification

2 Tim. 2:24 And the Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, 25 with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

Assessing Relationships & Groups



"DISENGAGED"

"FINGER-POINTING"

"SUPPORT GROUP"

"HEALTHY BODY-LIFE"

NOTE:

Memory Verses

Rom. 15:14* - All Christians have the responsibility to admonish one another. Goodness (love) and (biblical) knowledge are the two keys to effective admonition.

1 Thes. 5:14* - All Christians should practice encouragement and admonition as appropriate.

Heb. 10:24,25* - Effective encouragement requires prayerful forethought. We should come together with other Christians willing and ready to encourage them.

Assignment

Read Fee & Stewart, *How to Read the Bible Book by Book*, p. 14-24, 267-268. Write a one-page summary of what you read.