

Encouraging One Another

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7. Living For Christ In A Decadent World.

8. Understanding Encouragement.

- A. The power of a well-timed _____.
- Prov 18:21; 12:25; 1:4; 16:24; 25:11,20; Jas 3:5-6
1. Words are important.
 2. We must understand that Encouragement basically involves the careful selection of words that are intended to influence another person meaningfully toward increased godliness.
 3. Shallow words i.e. ones that lack concern or are not of truth, will not bring Encouragement to those who hear.
 4. Death words are words that destroy motivation toward godliness.
Prov 18:1
 5. Life words are those that are designed to build and maintain motivation toward godliness. 1 Cor 10:31
 6. We are commanded to Encourage One Another. Heb 10:25
- B. _____ Community is an obstacle to Encouragement.
1. Surface Community is easily achieved when the listener is not listening.
Jas 1:19
 2. The Core Emotion of Fear must be overcome to get past Surface Community. Gen 3:10
 3. Your Core Motivation must be geared toward the Two Key Goals. Mark 12:29-31
 4. Your Core Strategy must then become to learn how to meet them, and to pray that you can.
 5. When people try to communicate from behind their protective layers that are designed to hide their fears, the result is superficial and shallow communication.
 6. Pray that the Holy Spirit will make you attentive to others and that He will give you the wisdom and strength to become an Encourager.
- C. _____ Openness may not be the right solution.
1. We need to learn how to get through these layers.
 2. This involves a willingness to risk exposure.

3. It is legitimate to desire a relationship in which we feel secure, but to share more and more of who we are in the hope that our Christian brothers and sisters will accept us has actually established invalid goals.
4. This can lead to depending more on each other than on God for the acceptance we desire.
5. Sharing yourself should be done in the framework of commitment to God and to the welfare of another.
6. Total Openness can replace Surface Community with a Fractured Community that will end in No Community.
7. Being open with others does not mean to exhibit yourself seeking significance or security, but to demonstrate Christ to One Another.
8. True Personal fulfillment is available only through the realization of the extent of God's Love for you. 1 John 3:1-3

D. _____ Commitment is the right solution.

1. This begins with being able to treat people as people, specifically being willing to listen to One Another.
2. And then to seek to offer words or actions that Encourage.
3. Realize that Protective Layers can block out both words that Encourage and words that hurt.
4. Paul instructs us to understand the fears, defenses and needs of other people and to become committed, not to sharing ourselves for personal glory, but to sharing the Lord by ministering to those needs. Eph 4:29
5. This is consistent with Php 2:3-4.
6. But, we may ask the question, "Who will Encourage us?" How are we to maintain the objective of ministering to someone else when we cry for satisfaction?
7. We need to learn the difference between an objective and a desire.
 - a. An Objective is a purpose to which a person is committed.
 - b. A Desire is something wanted that cannot be obtained without the cooperation of another person.
8. Generally speaking, objectives are something that we are to "work" toward while desires are things for which we pray.
9. It is legitimate to desire personal Encouragement, but are objective should be to Encourage others.
10. When our desire to be Encouraged is not met, it is difficult to maintain our goal to minister to others, but it is possible.

E. The Character of an Encourager.

1. This involves learning to do what does not come naturally.
2. An Encourager's Motivation should be pure. 1 Cor 4:5
3. If it becomes a goal to impress someone with your caring heart, then it is not the true function of an Encourager, even though the person may not realize it and still be Encouraged.
4. Ministry to others should become more important than whether or not our desires are met.

5. The natural tendency is to become dependent rather than dependable.
 6. You will face times when there is seemingly no one to Encourage you but God. Those are good times. Psa 142:1-7
 7. We need to maintain our commitment to minister to others even when others are severely failing in their ministry to us. (Thus you share...)
- F. When do we tell someone else how we feel?**
1. When you decide to let the Holy Spirit use you to Encourage others, and you begin to see Him at work in and through you, it will probably accentuate your yearnings to receive in kind.
 2. What should you do when the opportunity arises for you to Encourage someone who irritates you?
 3. Realize first, that there are three basic strategies which are used for handling emotions:
 - a. Repression which is pretending to be something we are not.
 - b. Indiscriminate Expression which robs people of the opportunity to see Christ work through them.
 - c. Acknowledgment with Purposeful Expression which first acknowledges our feelings to God, and then discern when it is permissible to express our feelings to others.
 4. We should express our acknowledged emotions only when such emotions will further God's purposes.
 5. It is legitimate to tell others of your needs and seek their Encouragement and counsel. Gal 6:1-2
 6. By the same token, do not repress your feelings of wanting to give up, so that you do not seek help before it is too late.
- G. Of utmost importance is surrender to the Holy Spirit in the area of Encouraging One Another. Don't wait until it "feels right," or until you find "just the right moment."**