



Sermon #3 – Vintage Values: Profiles of Encouragement

Philippians 2:17-30

August 27, 2017

Discuss Sermon

Flatter me, and I may not believe you. Criticize me, and I may not like you.
Ignore me, and I may not forgive you. Encourage me, and I will not forget you.
– William Arthur Ward

People enjoy being “encouragers” because they are always ready with an encouraging word. The simplest words and actions can have a powerful impact on the life of another. I can still remember the people who encouraged me as I was growing up and I bet you can to.

God the Father never intended you or me to live in isolation. The Christian life is one of relationship. First with God and then with each other. Yes, close friendships are sometimes uncomfortable or inconvenient. But they are tremendously important in the kingdom of God. One of the most powerful aspects of living in community with fellow believers is the context it provides for giving and receiving encouragement. We live in a world that is increasingly fragmented and isolated. Christians need meaningful, uplifting connections with one another more than ever. We need encouragement.

- Why is encouragement for one another so important today?
- How can you more effectively encourage other Christians in your life this week?

The word for “encouragement” is a compound of the prefix “en” meaning to put in or into; and the word courage, meaning confidence, strength. To “encourage,” then, literally means to put courage into someone.”

Exchange Views

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (ESV) – Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

The Bible gives us examples of those who encouraged others. Consider some of these examples: (1) Barnabas, whose name means “son of encouragement,” knew how to support others. (2) The apostle Paul was also an encourager. (3) Our Lord demonstrated the most important example of a lifestyle of encouragement.

- What have you learned from the different profiles of encouragement that you find through the pages of Scripture that equips you to encourage others even better than before?
- Who has served as a profile of encouragement in your life over the years?

Examine Text – Philippians 2:17-30

Read the main text from the sermon and reflect on the key words, phrases, and lessons that God is teaching us.

- What are the key lessons that you learn from this text?
- What lessons on encouragement are found in these verses?

Personalize Truth

Never forget that there are many ways to show encouragement. Try to show more encouragement this week.

- You can call someone, write a letter, or even send a text. Try asking, “How can I pray for you?” Take the initiative to meet a need or give a thoughtful gift. Sacrifice your time to be with a friend who may be lonely. Weep with those who weep. Express affirmation and agreement when possible.
- Share scriptures that speak directly to their situations. You can also encourage others by being a good example to them and giving loving, godly correction. Almost all people will feel uplifted if you really listen to them. Show your loyalty—let people know they can count on you. Don’t be afraid to say, “I love you,” especially to your family. Finally, the easiest way to be an encouragement is simply smile and share the love of Christ.

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How to Use This Study Guide: This guide can be used by individuals, families, & small groups to gain a deeper understanding of God’s Word. Each section is organized in these areas: **D.E.E.P** = Discuss Sermon, Exchange Views, Examine Text, and Personalize Truth.