

February 26, 2006
Patchogue Church of the Nazarene
“One Another” Series

Encourage One Another

1 Thess 5:11(NIV)

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

[Click here for notes that were in the bulletin.](#)

Today will be the last message in the “One Another” series because next Sunday is the first Sunday of Lent and the messages will reflect the theme of Lent. There are many more “One Another” commands in the Bible than the ones we’ve covered. Here are a few we have covered and some we haven’t covered:

Accept (welcome & receive) one another (Rom 15:7)

Be devoted to one another (Rom 12:10; 14:19)

Love one another (John 13:34-35; 15:12,17; Rom 12:10; 13:8; 1 Thess 3:12; 4:9; 1 Peter 1:22; 4:8; 1 John 3:11,23; 4:7,11-12; 2 John 5; Phil 2:2)

Forgive one another (Eph 4:2-4; 4:31-32; Col 3:13)

Live in Harmony with one another (Rom 12:16)

Bear with each other (Col 3:13)

Admonish (caution, train, teach) one another (Col 3:16)

Be hospitable to one another (1 Peter 4:9)

Do not slander one another (James 4:11)

Encourage one another (1 Thess 4:18; 5:11; Heb 3:13; 10:24-25; Eph 5:19)

Be at peace with one another (Mark 9:50; Rom 12:16; 1 Peter 3:8)

Humbly serve and submit to one another (John 13:14; Gal 5:13; Eph 5:21; Phil 2:3; 1 Peter 4:9-10; 5:5)

Show kindness and honor to one another (Rom 12:10; 15:7; 1 Cor 11:33; 12:25; Eph 4:2,32; Col 3:13; James 4:11; 5:9)

Instruct one another (Rom 15:14; Col 3:16)

Stop judging one another (Rom 14:13)

Pray for one another (James 5)

[In your notes are the Scripture references for each of these. I encourage you to look them up and do your own study on the “One Another” commands of the Bible]

So which command should I conclude this series with? I decided to end with “encourage one another.” 1 Thess 5:11(NIV) –“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”

Remember the old saying (popular when I was a kid), “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never harm me!”? Boy, is that a lot of baloney. The truth is, words have power. They have the power to kill or to give life...which means that you have the power to kill or give life. Many of the messages you have heard in life are of

the killing kind. “you’re not smart enough; you’re not pretty enough; you’re not thin enough; you’re not fast enough; you’re not GOOD enough!”

In a world where people are put down, beat up and killed by negative words, you can provide the gift of encouragement. You can give life by telling people, “you matter; you’re life counts and has purpose; God loves you; you are precious and of great value to Him.” Our encouraging words may be the only kind thing a person hears in a day. Our words can be the voice of God’s grace. Rom 14:19b (TM) – “Help others with encouraging words...”

Seems like it is much easier to tear others down rather than to build them up. Why is that? Why is it natural to be discouragers? First of all it is a result of a sinful nature we were all born with. We care more about ourselves than others and by putting others down it makes us think we are better than we are or at least better than some others. Some people are skilled at finding fault in others and letting them know it. Some are skilled at finding some way to encourage all people. We will become encouragers when we stop looking down on others and when we stop merely thinking of ourselves. We will become encouragers when we learn to look past a persons faults and see the pain within.

We must value other people. God values people and if God values them then we ought to also. God created all people in His image and God sent His only Son to die for all people. That makes us all very significant to God. God loves us and has a plan for each one of us. Value all people and work hard to bring out the best in people. This does not come natural. We must choose to encourage and build others up others. Prov. 18:21 (THE MESSAGE) – “Words kill, words give life; they're either poison or fruit — you choose.”

The word “encourage” is similar to a word “Comforter” used to describe the Holy Spirit. The word means to “come alongside to help.” Jesus called the Holy Spirit the Comforter, Counselor, Helper, Intercessor who prays for you, Advocate who defends you, the Strengtheners, and the One who will Standby you, Who will teach and remind you of everything Jesus told us. (John 14:26) And that is what we do as encouragers. We come alongside others to comfort, counsel, help, pray, defend, strengthen and stand by them; Sometimes teaching sometimes reminding of the teachings of Scripture.

Rom 15:4 RSV “...that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.”

Everyone needs hope. All we have to do is look around because the need and opportunity to encourage is everywhere. And as Paul tells us in Rom 15:2 NLT “...If we do what helps (others), we will build them up in the Lord.” That’s where real hope is found, in the Lord and being built up in the Lord.

Focus on what is really important. In order to become an encourager, you may have to change your priorities, adjust your attitude, and remember the fact that all people are valuable to God.

Christians are to encourage one another. A word of encouragement offered at the right moment can be the difference between staying strong in the faith or collapsing along the way. Believers ought to be sensitive to one another's needs for encouragement, ready to offer supportive words or actions. (from The Life Application Commentary Series copyright (C) 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000 by the Livingstone Corporation. Produced with permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved.)

Heb 3:13-14 (from New International Version)

But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first.

A safeguard against believers turning away from God is for them to encourage one another daily (often, every day if possible).

Heb 10:24-25 NLT

Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near.

Think of ways to encourage others especially in two areas:

- 1) Love: not an emotion but a choice to act in loving ways regardless of our feelings. We are to act lovingly toward other believers and encourage other believers to show love.
- 2) Good deeds: works done for the good of others, and which attract others to Christ.

Believers also must not give up meeting together. Some Christians (then as well as today) were in the habit of not going to the church meetings. For whatever reason, these believers were trying to survive on their own. God did not design Christians to be completely independent of each other, however; He designed believers to need and encourage each other. We need to be with each other to encourage and be encouraged.

Christians are responsible for each other. We must not be concerned just for our own spiritual well-being; we must also encourage others to keep enthusiastic and fervent in their love and active in their service to God. This encouragement should happen all the more as you see the Day approaching. This "day" (Christ's return) is guaranteed; As a matter of fact Paul wrote in 1 Thess 4:16-18 (NLT) "For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the call of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, all the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and remain with him forever. So comfort and encourage each other with these words."

Do you need encouragement? Paul's words offer joy and hope. Christ will return! It's guaranteed. Christ has not forgotten us. Jesus gives us Eternal Life which is knowing God and being with God now and forever. This is the greatest encouragement we can share.

Notice that the verse says, “encourage one another and build each other up, *just as in fact you are doing.*” Apparently the Thessalonians were already doing this, yet Paul wanted them to continue to do so. We need to be reminded periodically of things we have been taught. Plus believers will never stop needing encouragement or building up. Just as one believer receives encouragement, he or she at another time will be in a position to offer it. The mutual giving and receiving in the body of Christ keep the church strong against the forces that attack it. God's people always need to stand together with one another as they anticipate their Savior's return.

So, how about it? Will you be an encourager? Will you build others up? This week, will you be a consistent source of encouragement to those around you? It is a choice on your part. You must commit to encouragement. From this moment on agree that you will build others up not tear them down. May you be heard to say things such as: “I believe in you, I’m grateful to you and for you, God is using you, God loves you, I appreciate you, I’m glad you are in my life.” Will you be a Barnabas? (Acts 4:36-37 NCV) “One of the believers was named Joseph, a Levite born in Cyprus. The apostles called him Barnabas (which means “one who encourages”). The apostles gave this Levite named Joseph a nick-name that literally meant “one who encourages” or “son of encouragement.” Wouldn’t it be great if people thought of you that way? Think of the influence you will have on others as a son or daughter of encouragement.