



JANUARY 11, 2024 THURSDAY - DAY 4

PRAY THAT WE WOULD ADMONISH ONE ANOTHER

ROMANS 15:14

The various translations of this verse are confusing. The King James Version, the New King James Version, and the New American Standard Bible all translate the Greek word as "admonish." Williams translations uses "counsel one another." The Beck translation translates it "correct one another." The New International Version reads "instruct one another."

MEANING OF ADMONISHMENT

The Greek word does not refer to a casual communication, nor even to normal teaching. It implies a definite exhortation, correction, and warning. When the same Greek word is used in 1 Thessalonians 5:14, Acts 20:31, and 1 Corinthians 4:14, it is a more definite warning not toward the goal or punishment, but of correction. The warning here is to "stop passing judgement on one another"

(Rom. 14:13). But how can they carry out this warning and not judge one another? That's why "instruction" is needed. The early Christians were competent to "instruct one another" because they were "complete in knowledge." Instruction must be based on God's will and way, not on what we think. If we are not knowledgeable of God's Word, we ourselves are in need of instruction. "Knowledge" will often keep one from judging.

METHOD OF ADMONISHMENT

HERE ARE SOME PRACTICAL "INSTRUCTIONS":

- Do it in love. "For three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears" (Acts 20:31).
- Make it personal. Some Pastors preach to the entire congregation (or teachers to an entire class) hoping to "hit" one person who is in need of a specific instructions. When the Bible speaks of "public rebuke," it does so only after personal confrontation (Matt. 18:15 - 17, 1 Tim. 5:19).
- Make it persistent. Again, Paul instructed "night and day" for three years" (Acts 20:31).
- Be sure your motives are pure. In 1 Corinthians 4:14, Paul states his motive: "I am not writing this to shame you, but to warn you, as my dear children."
- Be sure the goal is proper. There is only one proper goal to help individuals become mature in Christ. Paul wrote, "We proclaim him, instructing/warning/admonishing everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ" (Col. 1:28 - 29)
- Balance the instruction/warning. In Colossians 3:16, Paul writes of preventive admonishment, instruction, warning. Both are needed.
- Evaluate your own life before instructing/warning others. Is it "full of goodness" and "complete in knowledge"? Galatians 6:1 warns us to consider "yourself lest you also be tempted." Our attitude must not be haughty or holier than thou.

MODEL OF ADMONISHMENT

Paul often instructed them with his own model. He told them they were "competent to instruct one another," first because they were "full of goodness." They were competent to instruct one another because they were



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living holy lives of Christlikeness. They were mature enough to make sure they removed the “logs” from their own eyes before they tried to remove the “speck” from another’s eye.

“Full of goodness” will keep one from judging. Admonishment in the body of Christ must be both confrontive and caring, Depending on the nature of the problem. The downhearted and brokenhearted need a word of encouragement and comfort (2 Cor. 1:4). The rebellious and cold hearted need to be challenged and corrected (Gal. 6:1); the confused need to be instructed.

Never has there been a generation with more television and radio programs on counseling, more books on mental and emotional health, more seminars and professional counselors. And yet, never has there been a generation more confused, broken, lonely, depressed, and generally unhappy. While there is a place for specialized counselors and therapists, many of our emotional and spiritual needs could be met if the members of the body of Christ would simply care enough to confront one another. One of the greatest plagues of the modern church is the mind your own business attitude that refuses to get involved in one another’s lives, refuses to get involved in loving accountability with one another.

One of the characteristics that marked Wedgwood Baptist Church in the weeks following the shooting was the fact that no one seemed to want to go home following the services. People would stay and talk for hours. While other churches were canceling Sunday evening worship services, Wedgwood went to a ninety minute service with a full house.

People wanted to get involved with one another encouraging, comforting, challenging instructing, possibly even correcting one another. The secret of the explosive growth of early Methodism was the forming of spiritual cell groups who methodically (thus, the name) held each other accountable in their personal lives. From the Pastor in the pulpit to the person in the pew, we all need folks who love us enough to admonish and encourage us. Pray that we would admonish one another

And I myself am, also confident Concerning you my brethren, That you also are full of goodness, Filled with all knowledge, Able also to admonish one another. Romans 15:14

PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER

1. Pray that God will give you a circle of Christian friends with whom you can be transparent and who will lovingly hold you accountable.
2. Pray that God will provide accountability partners for your Pastor and staff.
3. Pray that God will reveal to your heart any “secret sins” that have crept into your life unaware, And then send loving friends to confirm that conviction.
4. Pray that God will lead you in helping other friends and loved ones become aware of areas in their lives that God wants to change. Pray for courage and compassion as the spirit leads you to lovingly admonish them.

Principles are biblical and timeless. Methods are cultural and temporal.