

How To Speak the Truth In Love

Romans 15:14

Series: Love One Another – Part 6

Introduction

“The best, the deepest, and the closest friends I have, or have ever had, all have **one thing in common** ... they have each loved me enough to tell me some things about my life that no one else cared enough to tell me.”

- An Ancient Truth = Proverbs 27:5-6
- A Probing Question = ?
- A Critical Command = Romans 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.”

Romans 15:14 (NAS)

◆ **Admonition – What Is It?**

I. **Definition** – To exert influence upon another (by life and word) to guide him / her into obedience of God’s will as revealed in Scripture.

“It consists of reminding, warning, counseling, correcting, reproving, and rebuking a person with the intention that he / she will carry it out.”

Colin Brown, Dictionary of the New Testament

II. **Clarification** – What Admonition is Not!

◆ **Why Must We Have Admonish One Another?**

- It is a _____.
Colossians 3:16, 1 Thessalonians 5:14
- Because we all have “ _____.”
Psalm 19:12, 139:23-24
- To become godly, holy, _____.
Colossians 1:28-29
- It cultivates deep, _____.
1 Thessalonians 2:8
- Because sin _____ a believer’s life.
Romans 6:23
- Because we are members of one another.
(Unchecked sin impacts the whole body)
Romans 12:4-5

◆ Why We Don't Admonish One Another

◆ Who Is Competent To Admonish?

- **It Requires A Life “Full Of Goodness”** Romans 15:14
i.e. In general terms, we are living a holy, righteous life (Matthew 7:3-5). We must “clean up our own act” before we can help others clean up theirs.
- **It Requires A Life “Filled With Knowledge”** Romans 15:14
i.e. Of God's Word (Colossians 3:16). We must be careful to admonish with regard to the absolutes of Scripture, not in areas that are extra-Biblical.
- **It Requires A “Heart Filled With Love”**
 - ~ 1 Corinthians 4:14 – “not to shame, but as beloved children...”
 - ~ Acts 20:31 – “night and day with tears ...”
 - ~ 2 Thessalonians 3:15 – “as a brother ...”
 - ~ Ephesians 6:4 – “as a father with his children ...”

◆ How To Admonish – “The Process”

- Step #1: Examine your own life. Matthew 7:3-5
- Step #2: Examine the Word. 2 Timothy 2:15
- Step #3: Examine your motives. 1 Corinthians 4:14
- Step #4: Set a time to meet privately. Matthew 18:15
- Step #5: Ask specific questions to confirm data, and disarm the situation.
- Step #6: Tenderly point out the sin; show them the Scripture that applies to them.
- Step #7: If possible, develop a gameplan, timetable, and follow-up meeting for support and follow-through.

Conclusion: Admonition is God’s antibiotic for the church; done Biblically, it is the most loving thing you can do ... for all concerned.

“Action Steps”

For personal, family, growth groups, and ministry team use.

1. Is there a relationship or situation that needs my attention?
2. Do you love this person enough to “speak the truth in love?”
3. With God’s help, I will ...
 - a) ... pray
 - b) ... examine my life
 - c) ... act _____ (day of this week)