

4 things we can't afford to forget:

1. People are **hurting** far more than you know and far more than they show.
2. You have far more to **offer** than you know and far more than you show.
3. Encouragement is helping others take that “**next step**” they couldn't take on their own and allows them to become more like Christ.
4. The key to encouragement = **ATTITUDE!**

Attitudes That Build Great Churches:

1. A word to leaders 1 Thessalonians 5:12
 - Work hard
 - Lead well
 - Admonish wisely

2. A word about leaders 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13
 - Respect them
 - Esteem them
 - Be at peace with them

3. A word to all of us 1 Thessalonians 5:14-15
 - Warn the idle
 - Encourage the timid
 - Help the weak
 - Be patient with all men

Attitudes that build great Christians:

1. A word about your private worship

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

- Be joyful always
- Pray continuously
- Give thanks in all circumstances

2. A word about your public worship

1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

- Be open to the Spirit
- Be receptive to the Word
- Be discerning and selective

3. A word about your spiritual growth

1 Thessalonians 5:23-28

- Be dependent
- Be responsible

Examine yourself - Examine the body

*A man ought to examine himself
before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.
For anyone who eats and drinks
without recognizing the body of the Lord
eats and drinks judgment on himself.*

1 Corinthians 11:28-29

Application / Discussion Questions:

1. How has God used His Body (the Church) to love, support, and encourage you in recent weeks and/or months? Thank Him!
2. When you review the “Attitudes” That Build Great Churches, where do you need to ask for God’s forgiveness? Is there a specific person you need to make things right with or take time to help? Do it today!
3. What new insight did you get today that could help you become a great (healthy) Christian? Tell a friend and take a step of faith in that arena.
4. In what specific way(s) or relationship(s) does God want to make you an **awesome encourager**? What would trusting Him in that area or relationship look like this week?