

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.”

A Critical Command:

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 (NASB)

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!

- It is not _____ another's life that does not conform to your standards.
- It is not a _____ or more spiritual person speaking down to an inferior or unspiritual person.
- It is not allowing things to remain the way they are for fear of _____.
- It is not making _____ to a group, hoping that the one you want to hear it will catch it.
- It is not a _____ - _____ shot and if they don't respond, then I have done my duty.

Why must we admonish one another?

- It is a _____.
Colossians 3:16
1 Thessalonians 5:14
- Because we all have “_____.”
Psalm 19:12
Psalm 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 _____ 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?

1. It requires a life “full of goodness”

Romans 15:14

- 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.

2. It requires a life “filled with knowledge”

Romans 15:14

- ...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.

3. It requires a “heart filled with love”

- “not to shame, but as beloved children...” 1 Corinthians 4:14
- “night and day with tears ...” Acts 20:31
- “as a brother ...” 2 Thessalonians 3:15
- “as a father with his children ...” Ephesians 6:4

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 game-plan, 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.

Discussion Questions:

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 ...
 - pray
 - examine my life
 - act _____ (day of this week)