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.
  Romans 12:4-5
  Unchecked sin impacts the whole body

Why we don’t admonish one another:
Who is competent to admonish?

1. **It requires a life “full of goodness”**
   - 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”**
   - …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)