

Admonish One Another

Romans 15:1-14

Introduction

- *And I myself am also persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able also to admonish one another (Romans 15:14).*
- Paul had himself such knowledge of the leading members of the church of Rome that he did not need to be informed by others about their true character.

I. WHAT IS ADMONISHMENT?

- The word *noutheteo* doesn't refer to casual communication or normal teaching.
- It implies a definite exhortation, a correction or warning.

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- We can “accept the sinner” without “accepting his sin.”
- By accepting others as Christ accepted us, we earn the right to admonish others.

II. WHO IS “COMPETENT” TO ADMONISH OTHERS?

A. They were “*full of goodness*”

- It is that virtue opposed to all that is mean and evil and includes uprightness, kindness, and *beneficence* of heart and life.
- Putting it another way, we must make sure we “clean up our *own* act” before we try to help *others* clean up theirs.

II. WHO IS “COMPETENT” TO ADMONISH OTHERS?

B. They were “*filled with all knowledge*”

- **Admonishment must be based on God’s specific will and ways—*not on what we think* other Christians should or should not be doing.**
- **We must know the difference between the absolutes of God’s Word and the non-absolutes of society and our own preferences.**

III. HOW SHOULD WE ADMONISH OTHERS?

A. Admonishment must be done with *love* and *gentleness*

- **We approach an erring friend not *self-righteously*, but rather as a fellow-traveler, openly owning our own weaknesses and struggles, while expressing genuine concern.**

III. HOW SHOULD WE ADMONISH OTHERS?

B. Admonishment must frequently be *personal*

- That means I go to you personally and *privately*.
- Jesus says in Matthew 18:15: *“Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone; if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.”*

III. HOW SHOULD WE ADMONISH OTHERS?

C. Admonishment must be *persistent*

- This kind of exhortation must be continual if it is to be *effective*.

III. HOW SHOULD WE ADMONISH OTHERS?

D. Admonishment must flow from *pure* motives

- We must do all we can to avoid *embarrassing* people—even those who are guilty.

III. HOW SHOULD WE ADMONISH OTHERS?

E. Admonishment must have the *proper* goal

- **There should be only one basic objective when we admonish others: to help them become more *mature* in Jesus Christ (Col. 1:28-29; Eph. 4:13-14).**

IV. PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Each of us must evaluate our own lives before trying to admonish others.

1. Can I say my own life is “full of goodness” and “filled with all knowledge?”
2. When I exhort or admonish another Christian, do I do so with love and gentleness?

IV. PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Each of us must evaluate our own lives before trying to admonish others.

3. When a Christian needs admonishment regarding specific sins, do I seek that person out in private?

4. Am I persistent in my admonishment without being obnoxious and overbearing?

IV. PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Each of us must evaluate our own lives before trying to admonish others.

5. Do I admonish others—not to tear them down and embarrass them—but to build them up?

6. Do I admonish others for one basic purpose—to help them become mature in Christ?

LESSONS TO TAKE-AWAY

- The importance of Admonishment, one that is greatly *neglected* in today's church.
- Admonishment is a means that the Holy Spirit uses for the *well-being* of a Christian brother or sister.
- No individual, regardless of office, or stature, or reputation, is *beyond* the necessity of reproof.