



A study of 1 Thessalonians 5

**Message: A Ministry We
Shouldn't Avoid**

1 Thessalonians 5:14

1 Thessalonians 5:14 (NIV); *And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone.*

Admonish: effort put towards encouraging, correcting, or warning someone to change from a behavior that is or potentially is wrong according to Scripture. Admonishing involves imparting knowledge, understanding, or instruction with a plan of correction.

A very important ministry in keeping peace within relationships and the church, however it is a ministry that is neglected, even avoided. God says, we are all to be reconcilers, 2 Corinthians 5:17-19.

Admonishing is a vital ministry to the body of Christ. We need to understand it, practice it, do it well, and do it in love in spite of our natural inclination to avoid it.

Today's aim is to equip us with tools in our ministry of admonishing; Hurdles to overcome:

- 1) Overcome fear! Don't be afraid to warn those who are sinning.
James 5:20
- 2) Overcome seeming judgmental. But, *"don't judge others for minor sins in their lives while you ignore major sin in your life."*
- 3) Overcome the thought of "Who am I to correct someone else." We'll never be perfect but don't let that stop you from going, but please do deal with your own sin first if needed.
- 4) Overcome one of Satan's attacks. It's a cultural belief, especially here in America, that we must be tolerant and loving. Loving yes! But we must be intolerant to sin.
- 5) Overcome thinking that someone's problem will go away on its own. It won't. God can do it alone but often uses us to help.
- 6) Overcome thinking "you are incapable of helping." The general principle is that if you know the person, love them; you will be the most effective person in helping them turn from their sin, better than any other person will do.



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How do we admonish a friend? Steps:

First, discern the other person's spiritual condition.

- fainthearted or weak- don't need admonishing, but encouragement or help.
- spiritually immature- need gentle instruction in how to grow up in the Lord.

Second, confront and then expect resistance.

- Be prepared so that you don't respond in anger or allow the conversation to shift.

Third, admonish without condemning.

- don't come across as harsh or judgmental.

How do we admonish without condemning? We need to be prayerful, humble, Christlike, and knowledgeable of God's word.

Prayerful: talk to God before you talk to your friend.

Humble: understand that we are just as prone to sin as they are.

Christlike: walk in the Spirit and display the fruit of the Spirit. Admonishing should be bathed in patience, kindness, and gentleness.

Knowledgeable of God's word- especially know the scripture that points out a particular sin. And come prepared with the scripture of God's love and redemption plan.

Finally, the five "P's." To admonish others, we must be passionate, personal, persistent, purposeful, and preventative.

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