

Romans 15 - Part 28
The Art of Encouragement
06/05/2022

Romans 15:1-7 (ESV) We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

How to be an Encourager:

1st) **STRENGTHEN** yourself.

Romans 15:1a (ESV) We who are strong

- Build yourself up first so you can build others

Nehemiah 8:10 (ESV) Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

- How do I strengthen myself?
- I glorify God more than my problems
- Focus on the solution not the problem

Matthew 24:12 (KJV) And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

- If we take our eyes off Jesus and focus on the evil of this world and our circumstances, then, little by little, the layers of negativity harden around our hearts, and the love for God and others waxes cold.

Joshua 1:9 (NLT) This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

- If you are afraid and discouraged, then you are not strong and of good courage.
- The Lord doesn't automatically do these things for you—He flows through you

Ephesians 3:20 (ESV) Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us

- God flows through people

- *After the death of Moses the servant of God, God spoke to Joshua, Moses' assistant: "Moses my servant is dead. Get going. Cross this Jordan River, you and all the people.*

2nd) Become a **BUILDER**.

Romans 15:2 (ESV) Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

- How Can I Build others?
- Remind myself How Good the Gospel is!

Romans 1:16 (NKJV) For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

- Under the Old Covenant God was angry with Israel about sins.
- Under the Gospel You've been saved from God's wrath.

Romans 5:9 (TLB) And since by his blood he did all this for us as sinners, how much more will he do for us now that he has declared us not guilty? Now he will save us from all of God's wrath to come.

- Under the Old Covenant animal sacrifices were yearly reminders of sin.
- Under the Gospel, God remembers your sins no more.

Hebrews 8:12 (TLB) And I will be merciful to them in their wrongdoings, and I will remember their sins no more."

- Under the Old Covenant the Holy Spirit would come upon people temporarily for acts of divine service.
- Under the Gospel, the Holy Spirit is sealed in you forever.

Eph. 1:13 (NIV) And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, "How can I help?"

3rd) Glorify God with your **REMEMBRANCE**.

Romans 15:4 (ESV) For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance

Psalms 42:6 (NIV) My soul is downcast within me; therefore I will remember you from the land of the Jordan,

- These stones served as reminders that their God had shown up, that when all seemed lost, God was faithful.
- Your relationship to God
- When you're encouraged by God you'll encourage others
- When you love the Lord you'll somehow love others

2 Encouraging Action Steps:

A) EYE Surgery.

Hebrews 3:13 (NIV) But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness

- Catch people doing things right

B) HEART surgery.

Matthew 12:35 (NIV) A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him.

- The Results of Encouragement:

John 1:42 (TLB) And he brought Peter to meet Jesus. Jesus looked intently at Peter for a moment and then said, "You are Simon, John's son—but you shall be called Peter, the rock!"

- Jesus saw beyond his sin.
- Jesus saw beyond his past.
- Jesus saw beyond his inadequacy

A) Encouragement brings CHANGE.

B) Encouragement brings CONFIDENCE.

Acts 2:14 (NIV) Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:

- Encouragement is a constant yes in a world that says no.