

Admonition TO ENTERTAIN (2 Timothy 4:3-4). People will find teachers that please them. These believe nonsense as long as it is entertaining.

Guarding Our Freedom in Christ

We are free from the burdens of legalistic religion, judgmentalism based on personal feelings and guilt from sin that we have committed. We live in a harsh, demanding and judgmental world. God designed His Church to be a sanctuary (Ephesians 2:4-8). Those attempting to change what God has commanded must be confronted so they will have the option to choose to do differently and go to Heaven.

Transformed by the Master

Each Christian is “becoming.” No one has “arrived.” All must continue to be changing (Colossians 3:9-10). Your concern is focused NOT upon personal offenses, selfish views, prideful positions but upon compassion and concern that others will study accept and be transformed by the message of Christ!

In the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome stand massive statutes of the Apostles. Each is on a high pedestal. Master sculptors depicted them as muscular, handsome and almost godlike. In real life these probably looked much like you and me. What made them great was their willingness to be shaped, corrected and transformed by their Master.

- ◆ Erratic, emotional Peter became a “rock” of stability.
- ◆ John, one of the “sons of thunder” marked by quick temper, became the “Apostle of love.”
- ◆ Thomas no longer was the “Doubter” but an unmovable Believer.

We have no right to bind human standards, personal opinions, personal viewpoints upon others. This is true even if we have been taught these things from childhood! Those educated and trained incorrectly think they can admonish and coerce others to march in goosestep with their strictness. They will not see the inconsistency of their positions with the Scripture.

Christians are expected to speak from their hearts words of compassion correcting another’s unscriptural choices. This communication must be governed by one being “full of goodness” and “complete in knowledge.”

Let us pray that when we are admonished by those who speak to us from goodness and knowledge, that we will be correctable and will continue being “transformed”!



Lesson Eleven: Caring Enough to Confront!

Dalraida Church of Christ

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“My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you strays from the truth and someone turns him back, let him know that the one who has turned a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and cover a multitude of sins” (James 5:19-20).

Confrontation is an interesting human behavioral study. Some are non-confrontational and will do anything to avoid fact-to-face situations. Others are always ready to pull-the-trigger. Somewhere in the middle is the one who speaks from the heart, caring enough to correct and reconcile to God’s Way. Wherever you are on the spectrum of confrontation reactions, it is always a negative. Why? Four possible reasons:

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| Weaknesses in the spotlight. | Not having the facts correct. |
| The spirit is insensitive. | It is PERSONAL |

The Body Life in the Church is a shared life! (Colossians 2:2).

- ◆ There is accountability (Galatians 6:1-4; James 5:19-20).
- ◆ We are not to be “garbage collectors” or “sin detectors.”
- ◆ “Not to keep record” (1 Corinthians 13:5-6).
- ◆ Be sensitive and concerned (1 Corinthians 12:25).

Some Will Reject Admonition

Some will not accept admonition (Proverbs 15:12). When one is not concerned enough to correct: Inability to learn and grow; Difficulties in relationships; Weak character; Potential for even more serious consequences.

In summary, the individual who “will not be corrected” demonstrates a resistance to learning and growth, leading to detrimental outcomes in their

spiritual life, relationships, and overall development.

The Biblical Command to “Admonish”

“Admonish” is the English translating a word meaning, “to restore one to his senses; to moderate, control, curb, discipline; to hold one to his duty; to admonish, to exhort earnestly.” It can be translated as “to warn, advise, instruct, or counsel.” The term communicates the action of “setting the mind aright”—redirecting or encouraging a person away from an error and toward the correct attitude and action.

The biblical action of “admonition” is moving or transforming someone to be “balanced” with God’s Will because of following the Lord’s will more correctly (Titus 2:4). The biblical responsibility to “admonish” belongs to every member of the congregation (1 Thessalonians 5:12; Colossians 1:28; 3:16; Ephesians 6:4).

Confrontation is required. Christians must care enough about the members of their spiritual Body that they will correct with admonition. How can I make sure I am speaking from the heart and caring enough to confront those who are walking disorderly?

Understand and Step Up When Required

Admonishing is required when someone fails to follow God’s Truth as taught in the Bible (2 Thessalonians 3:6).

“Disorderly” refers to insubordination; conduct that refuses proper order, shirks responsibility, and disrupts the harmony of the body of Christ (1 Thessalonians 5:14). “Disorderly” describes soldiers who break rank, desert their posts, or other unfit conduct, and therefore cannot perform their duty as soldiers, especially in battle. It aptly denotes those neglecting proper duty of their office or station. So, when a member is “out of step,” “deserted rank,” “acting unfit”—it is required for other members to bring into accountability.

The Circumstances Requiring Admonition (Galatians 6:1-2)

- ◆ Admonish when a Christian has been “caught in a sin.”
- ◆ Admonition has as its primary concern the restoration of the sinner.
- ◆ Admonition is verbalized by a spiritual person (Romans 15:14).
- ◆ Admonition’s goal is to “restore the member gently.” (1 Corinthians 4:14).

The Devilish Cunning of Admonition

Satan convincingly distorts the Christian’s intentions. Some “intend” to follow the principles of Galatians 6:1-5 BUT Satan deceives them and causes the trauma of Matthew 7:1. Consequently, the repentance and restoration are non-existent.

Some expect you to remain silent in the face of false doctrine, immorality, or any action contrary to God’s Word! They seek to justify the ungodly by making you feel guilty for standing for the truth! A literal rendering of this text is absurd—it will forbid any judgment! The same absurdity applies to those who advocate pacifism from abusing Matthew 5:39. The Lord command us to make discerning judgments!

Measured by the judgmental eye of Matthew 7:1, King David does poorly. At best he made a 60% score on the Ten Commandments! Left to the mercy of the proud judgment of Matthew 7:1...His influence would have been dismissed; His psalms would have been discredited. But God looked into David’s imperfect heart and loved (1 Samuel 13:14; 16:7). He became the forerunner of the Messiah and he is the best-loved devotional voice through the centuries.

How tragic it is to observe some who will be confrontational and very blunt in their words, but fail to care enough to communicate restoration and forgiveness AS God has done for them!

The Pattern for Admonition

Admonition THAT IS EVER READY (2 Timothy 4:2). This reveals diligent study to reading and doctrine. You position yourself upon the Scriptures! (1 Timothy 4:13-16; 2 Timothy 2:15-16; 3:14).

Admonition THAT CONVINCES (2 Timothy 4:2) Those in error are “convinced of the truth and their need to adhere to it (Acts 17:2-3; 18:26; 19:8).

Admonition THAT REBUKES (2 Timothy 4:2) according to the nature and circumstances of the offense (Titus 2:15).

Admonition THAT EXHORTS (2 Timothy 4:2). Christians to be “Boanergeses” but in other cases they should be “Barnabases.”

Admonition THAT IS LONGSUFFERING (2 Timothy 2:24-25; 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:14; 2 Timothy 2:24-25). There are limits.

Admonition THAT IS DOCTRINAL (2 Timothy 4:2).

The Pattern of Admonition is Destroyed

Admonition encouraging UNSOUND DOCTRINE (2 Timothy 4:3). People give heed to deceiving spirits (1 Timothy 4:1-2).

- Lovers of self and pleasure (2 Timothy 3:1-2).
- Hear “according to their own desires” (2 Timothy 4:3).
- Justify verbally or accept silently sin and compromises.
- Accepting “contrary to sound doctrine” (1 Timothy 1:10).
- Not telling others that they accept things “unhealthy” to their soul (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).