



1 Thessalonians 5:11

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. **12** We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, **13** and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. **14** And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

(ESV)

1. Strategically _____ (v.11)

2. Biblically _____ (vv.13b-14a)

3. Patiently _____ (v.14b)

4. Thoughtfully _____ (vv.12-13a)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **1 Thessalonians 5:11**. What are some of the specific ways you have been truly encouraged by other Christians to keep moving forward in the Christian life?
2. Read **Acts 4:36** and **9:26-27**. Put yourself in Barnabas' sandals and consider what it cost him to display the virtue of his nickname when he stood with the newly converted "Saul" (aka Paul). What other virtues did it require to be an encourager in this tense situation?
3. Read **Psalms 141:5** and **Proverbs 27:6**. Why is it unloving to refuse to personally correct a Christian friend's sinful actions? What is at stake if you never do this?
4. Read **2 Corinthians 7:5-6**. Who might need your help right now? What is your plan to be God's instrument of assistance, hope, and comfort to them?
5. Read **Hebrews 10:24**. After giving some prayerful thought to how you might live out this verse in two of your friends' lives, what will you do?

This Week's Bible Reading Schedule

April 2nd

Judg. 8-9 & Lk. 8:22-56

April 3rd

Judg. 10-11 & Lk. 9:1-36

April 4th

Judg. 12-14 & Lk. 9:37-62

April 5th

Judg. 15-17 & Lk. 10:1-24

April 6th

Judg. 18-19 & Lk. 10:25-42

April 7th

Judg. 20-21 & Lk. 11:1-28

April 8th

Ruth 1-4 & Lk. 11:29-54

April 9th

1 Sam. 1-3 & Lk. 12:1-34

The following related sermons are also available for downloading or streaming on the Focal Point Website (FocalPointMinistries.org).

Msg. 16-23 – **Christian Friendship: Kindness & Encouragement**

Msg. 12-06 – **The Encouragement of Mutual Support**

Msg. 14-24 – **Your Fraternity of Hearers**

Msg. 09-11 – **Real Love: Its Biblical Dimensions**

Msg. 09-25 – **Connectedness: Being More Intentional About Biblical Fellowship**

Msg. 02-06 – **Devoted to Encouragement**

Msg. 07-33 – **Sacrifice Instead of Selfishness**

This Week's Social Media Hashtag

#GoodShepherding

For users of Twitter, Facebook, or other social media sites for the grouping of sermon quotes, helpful insights, or your sharable applications drawn from today's sermon.

Here are some books which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Carmichael, Liz. **Friendship: Interpreting Christian Love**. T&T Clark, 2004.

Dever, Mark and Jamie Dunlop. **The Compelling Community**. Crossway, 2015.

Fernando, Ajith. **Reclaiming Friendship**. Herald Press, 1993.

Frazee, Randy. **The Connecting Church**. Zondervan, 2001.

Gorman, Julie. **Community That Is Christian**. Victor Books, 1993.

Holmes, Jonathan. **The Company We Keep: In Search of Biblical Friendship**. Cruciform Press, 2014.

Kroll, Woodrow. **Struggling with Selfishness: Choosing to Look Past Yourself**. Back to the Bible, 1996.

Owen, John. **Rules for Walking in Fellowship**. Reformation Heritage Books, 2014.

Pathak, Jay and Dave Runyon. **The Art of Neighboring: Building Genuine Relationships**. Baker Books, 2012.

Ryken, Philip Graham, ed. **The Communion of the Saints: Living in Fellowship with the People of God**. P & R, 2001.

Straunch, Alexander. **The Hospitality Commands: Building Loving Christian Community**. Lewis & Roth, 1993.

Swindoll, Charles. **Improving Your Serve: The Art of Unselfish Living**. Reprint. Word, 2002.

Welch, Edward T. **Side by Side: Walking with Others in Wisdom and Love**. Crossway, 2015.

Wilkins, Steve. **Face to Face: Meditations on Friendship and Hospitality**. Canon Press, 2002.