

ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

08.29.10 Creekside Misc Encouragement is the maintenance ministry of the church 25 m.
INTRODUCTION:

Attn: Use a car maintenance man outfit – Talk about the shallow understanding I have about cars and how I rely heavily on car mechanics to fix my problem. (Car sounds & Q)

Relv: Just as my car is bound to have problems, so is my life. In this series we've been talking about how to ensure that our church and ministry is running well. Ready for visits
- Non-Christian – you need to the gospel to survive and the care of us will show you
- Christian – The HS is in you, but God's body is His practical presence for you

(Relv) The Church needs a critical mass of ordinary people who are faithful to Christ and to each other in order to survive. – in this series we've studied what it means for us

SERIES OVERVIEW: (Rob's statement to Dave – "You must hate your congregation...")

1. Love: We live to emulate Christ – "We love b/c Christ first loved us." Ties it all up
2. Serve: Christ washed feet, so we do all we can to serve those in and outside
3. Befriend: We serve the prince of peace so are the people of peace and keep the P
4. Support: Accept. Devote. Support. Unite. = Penny Whipps marathon yesterday.
5. Submit: Obedience and sacrifice is part of the Christian life. We respect God's order
6. TODAY – the last one – Encourage one another: this sums it all up the best...

ENCOURAGEMENT IS THE MAINTENANCE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH.

We could nail all the other "One Another" psgs, but if we do not have the min. of encouragement then we will soon become religious in our actions and dead in our affections toward one another. All of us work in the garage to keep the engine going.

- While some of the other "One Another"s are about action (Serve, Support, etc) This is deeper. Encouragement ensures attitude change, not just action adjustment.

In order to be a person who works on this part of our ministry – and we all should in our own way work on this part of the ministry – you must ask yourself three questions:

1. What is my motivation? Why are you giving of yourself? (and ask yourself the reverse question – Why am I NOT giving of myself?)
2. What is the need in front of me? This is why we are all involved – we all have a different perspective – Tall person vs. a short person (height challenged).
3. What do I have to give? We all have a unique gift mix to offer. Encouragement may not just be words (That is some ppl's gift, not others), but action, expertise...

OIL THE ENGINE: ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER WITH WORDS AND ACTIONS - 1 Thessalonians 5:11, "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." This is the "Building of the engine" ensuring power

ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER TO STAY CLOSE TO CHRIST

Hebrews 3:13, "But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."

- "Exhort" and "Encourage" – primarily a word-based ministry, but one that speaks to the heart from the heart. If your heart is dry, then your words will be saltines.
- We encourage others to pursue Christ out of our own pursuit of Christ.
- "As long as it is called today" – the author is pointing out the uniqueness of this time for the church; God has come, spoken and gone and we await his return. This calls for us to have a special focus on encouraging one another's faith.

Action

TIM AND JOHN IN THE HALF MARATHON – my 2 roommates who lived out encouragement

LEARNING CONTENTMENT FOR THE SAKE OF ENCOURAGEMENT:

- 1) Avoid comparisons. Encouragement that has seeds of comparison is hypocrisy.
- 2) Cultivate gratefulness. Authentic thanksgiving breeds encouragement. Me and Ben

Discontentment makes rich people poor and contentment makes poor people rich

ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER TO DO THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY

Hebrews 10:24-25, "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, [25] not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

- The word "Ministry" – Stephen doesn't like it, b/c it is Christianese, and true, BUT it's the best word I can find to speak to the ministering and care that happens here
- We "stir up" – taking that which has grown stagnant and move it for good purpose
- For the sake of love – Here in psg, toward each other, but a byproduct of 1st w/ JC
- For the sake of good works – not for salvation but sanctification: Christ-likeness

TIGHTEN THE LUG NUTS: COMFORT ONE ANOTHER WHEN LIFE IS UNSTEADY - Spare Tire on backwards

– Encourage the best you can with a genuine heart. Be quick repair your mistakes. Most important strive to comfort

- Life is hard and it only seems to be getting harder. Therefore we must be there to comfort each other when we are discouraged, depressed or in a state of despair.
- "Comforting" one another is not just for women – this is not some "Grab a box of Kleenex and meet me on the couch with a bag of chips for a good cry" ministry
- Comforting one another is helping a brother or sister keep their eyes above the problem and helping them remember the final goal
- (Turn to) 1 Thes 4:18, "Therefore encourage one another with these words."
 - o They were rmbing the day when Christ would come again. Look home!

COLUMBINE, KENSIE AND CLARK – Points of Application:

- We allow our differences to divide us, and neglect to let our suffering unite us.
- Good comforters must be willing to be changed by the one who needs to comfort and must be prepared to let the pain of another become their own.
- Those in loss need practical help, presence, and patience. "You were there"

REPAIR THE LEAKS: ADMONISH ONE ANOTHER TO LIVE LIKE CHRIST

When my dad taught me to fix cars, we would identify the leak, find best fix

- 1) Find the leak: Look for the thing in someone else's life that you can help them wit
 - a. Don't go after leaks in other's engine when yours is spewing antifreeze and oil all over – the guy in Ryan's church this week ~~Salatrans~~
 - b. Some leaks aren't your problem – don't pry open the hood and start work
 - c. Not all leaks are a quick fix – be patient and be willing to go the long haul
- 2) Strive for "God-Awesome" (Shannon) results.
 - a. Acts 2:43, "Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles." When God is in it, you can't explain it: awe: phobos (fob'-os); alarm, fright, fear, terror.

Colossians 3:16-17, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."