

1Th.5:9-22 — For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore **encourage one another** and **build one another** up, just as you are doing.

We ask you, brothers, to **respect** those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and **admonish** you, and to **esteem** them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. And we urge you, brothers, **admonish** the idle, **encourage** the fainthearted, **help** the weak, be **patient** with them all. See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always **seek to do good to one another** and to everyone. **Rejoice** always, **pray** without ceasing, **give thanks** in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but **test everything; hold fast** what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

The Body of Christ

Roles: Lesson 3

Hagerstown Church of Christ

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Remember the Bible Roles?

- Eph 4:11-14 — And he gave the **apostles**, the **prophets**, the **evangelists**, the **shepherds** and **teachers**,
- [What] To equip the saints for the work of ministry, **for building up the body of Christ**,
- [When] until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to **mature manhood**, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,
- [Why] So that we may *no longer be children*, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

Who Is The Body of Christ?

- The Bride of Christ
- **Assembly** = Church = ekklesia = Gathering = The Flock
- The Gathering of the First Born, Church of the Living God
- Household of God, Children of God, churches of Christ
- **The Saints**, the Select, Holy Priesthood
- True Descendants of Abraham, Brothers in Christ
- Fellow-Soldiers, Fellow-Workers, Follow-Prisoners, Fellow-Slaves
- The Way, Those who have turned the world upside down
- Disciples, **Christians!**

Major *Purpose* for the Assembly is **Encouragement**

- **Therefore**, brothers, **since** we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and **since** we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a **true heart** in **full assurance** of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.
- Let us *hold fast* the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us *consider* how to **stir up one another** to **love** and **good works**, **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. — **Heb. 10:19-25**

Stir Up — Encourage

- And let us **consider one-another** — *katanoeō allēlōn*
- **how to stir up** — *paroxysmos* – an inciting, incitement; (also) a sharp fit of anger, sharp contention, angry dispute
- to love and good works,
- **not neglecting** — *mē enkataleipo* – do not leave, do not leave behind; do not forsake, do not abandon
- **to meet together** — *epi-synagōgē* - the act of being gathered together or being assembled
- as is the habit of some, but **encouraging** — *parakaleō* 109x
 - To call for, invite to come, send for
 - To call upon, exhort, admonish, persuade
 - To beg, beseech, entreat, implore;
 - To animate, encourage, comfort, console,
 - To be cheered, comforted

Similar Words (1)

- **paraklēsis** 29x → comfort; consolation; encouragement.
 - a calling upon, **exhortation**, incitement, **persuasion**, Rom. 12:8; 1 Cor. 14:3;
 - hortatory **instruction**, Acts 13:15; 15:31;
 - entreaty, importunity, earnest **supplication**, 2 Cor. 8:4;
 - solace, **consolation**, Lk. 2:25; Rom. 15:4, 5; 2 Cor. 1:3, 4, 5, 6, 7;
 - cheering and **supporting** influence, Acts 9:31;
 - **joy**, gladness, rejoicing, 2 Cor. 7:13;
 - **cheer**, joy, enjoyment, Lk. 6:24
- **sym-parakaleo** 1x to invite, exhort along with others; pass. to share in **mutual encouragement**, Rom. 1:12

Similar Words (2)

- **euthumos** 1x good cheer or courage, cheerful, Acts 27:36
- **oikodomeo** 40x to build a house; to **build**, Mt. 7:24; to **repair**, embellish, and amplify a building, Mt. 23:29; to construct, establish, Mt. 16:18; met. to contribute to advancement in religious knowledge, to edify, 1 Cor. 14:4, 17; to advance a person's spiritual condition, to **edify**, 1 Cor. 8:1; pass. to make spiritual advancement, be edified, Acts 9:31; to advance in presumption, 1 Cor. 8:10 → edify; **strengthen**.
- **paramytheomai** 4x to exercise a **gentle influence** by words; to **soothe**, **comfort**, **console**, Jn. 11:19, 31; 1 Thess. 5:14; to **cheer**, **exhort**, 1 Thess. 2:12*

What Encourages You?

Some of what encourages me...

- People showing up, being in the **assembly**
- See the **young** stepping up, showing initiative, making faith their own
- The faithful consistency of the **elderly**, in spite of aches and pains, or weather
- Participation in Bible class, coming prepared, offering thoughtful comments or questions
- Someone sharing what they have been **studying**
- Good **singing**, singing favorite songs
- Heart-felt **prayers**
- When people share answered prayers, **trials** they overcame
- Someone sharing deep insights at the **table**, their perspective
- Someone sharing a **verse** that I had forgotten, or sharing their personal impact or perspective
- Learning more about someone's **conversion** story, where they came from, what led them to the decision
- Watching the **baptism** of a new convert
- News of someone I knew awhile ago, who has **remained strong** in the Lord
- Seeing my **children** and **grandchildren** children growing in the Lord, studying on their own, asking thoughtful questions
- Someone sharing what **encourages** them!

Personal Responsibility

Based on Early Church Practice

- “What then, brothers? When you come together, **each one** has a **hymn**, a **lesson**, a **revelation**, a **tongue**, or an **interpretation**. Let all things be done for **building up**.” — **1 Cor. 14:26**

Personal Responsibility 2

- “...be filled with the Spirit, **addressing one another** in **psalms** and **hymns** and **spiritual songs**, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, **giving thanks** always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **submitting** to **one another** out of reverence for Christ.” — **Eph 5:18b-21**
- “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.” — **Col. 3:16-17**

Be A Participant Not A Spectator!

- How do you **prepare** for the **Assembly**?
 - Do you consider the specific **people** you need to encourage, to cheer on, or influence?
 - Do you think of some **encouragement** you can share (song, psalm, verse, victory, joy, thanksgiving, wisdom, or proverb)?
 - Do you consider the prayer list (e.g., to let them know you are praying, to ask about the progress or answers, or to offer some **consolation** or **comfort**)?
- Do you leave early enough to arrive **on time** (or maybe a little early to allow time to greet people)?
- Do you reach out to **visitors** to make them welcome?
- Did you **prepare** if you have a service to perform in the assembly?
- If you can't serve when scheduled, then did you **find a substitute**?

Make every effort to **encourage** one another!

- Do you encourage those who volunteer to **teach**, **speak**, and **serve**?
 - Are you taking advantage of the **Bible class** hour?
 - Do you prepare (read ahead, study at home)?
 - Do you tell the leader how you are studying the scriptures to confirm what they have said?
 - Do you share or demonstrate how you are applying the teachings?
- Do you encourage those who serve behind the scenes (cleaning, preparing, offering, classrooms, bulletin, leading activities, visiting, etc.)
- The command to **encourage** applies to everyone, even *without* a preacher or evangelist!

Build Up One Another

