

“Is Your Life an Encouragement to Others?”

I Peter 3:8-12

June 24, 2012

1. Know the five foundational attitudes that bring encouragement to others...(3:8)

- Unity of mind.
- Sympathy.
- Brotherly love.
- A tender heart.
- A humble mind.

2. Find a way to bring a blessing to everyone.

- Stop the bent toward revenge.

*“Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.” (3:9)*

*“Turn away from evil.”*

- Control your mouth.

*“...let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit.” (3:10)*

- Be intentional –do good and seek peace.

*“...do good; let him seek peace and pursue it.”(3:11)*

3. See the impact of your relationships on your relationship with God.

*“For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.” (3:12)*

**Application:**

1. Would the people that you work with say that you are an encouragement? Why or why not?
2. What needs to change in order to become an encouragement?
3. How have you been encouraged? Thank the Lord for His encouragement in your life.

Bible Study Questions/ Discussion  
"Is Your Life an Encouragement to Others?"  
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1. What brings the greatest discouragement to you? What are some of the things that bring "encouragement?" (I Thess. 5:11) Discuss the five foundational attitudes that are essential for encouragement to happen. (I Peter 3:8) Why are they so important? Discuss why their absence brings discouragement. Which of the five is the most difficult for you?
  - Unity of mind – (Also Rom. 12:5,16; Phil. 2:2)
  - Sympathy – (Also Heb. 4:15; 13:3; Rom. 12:15)
  - Brotherly love – (Rom. 12:10; Heb. 13:1)
  - A Tender heart – (Eph. 4:32; Lk. 10:33,37)
  - A humble mind – (Phil. 2:3; Rom. 12:3)
2. In order to bring a "blessing" to someone you must first stop something. What is it according to I Peter 3:9,11? What thoughts will help you stop? (Also Prov. 20:22) Controlling the tongue is a necessary decision in order to be a blessing to others. (I Peter 3:10) Discuss the danger of a tongue out of control. (Prov. 12:18) What can we do to control our tongues? (Ps. 141:3; Eph. 4:29-30)
3. In order to be an encouragement to others we must "do good" and seek "peace." (I Peter 3:11) (Also Rom. 15:2; 14:19) Discuss the value of praying for our enemies or difficult people in our lives. (Matt. 5:44)
4. Peter mentions three body parts in relation to God in I Peter 3:12. What are they and what is the significance of each one. (God is a spirit but these terms are used to describe an aspect of our relationship with God.) How does this verse motivate you to better reach out to people around you?
5. Are you in need of some encouragement personally today? Can you share with someone your need? Is there someone you can intentionally encourage this week?