

# UNITED

## Admonish One Another

**Read:** Colossians 3:12-17, Romans 15:14-21, 1 Corinthians 4:14-21

**Reflection:**

*“Hard words produce soft hearts.”*

Admonishment done well is rare. Rare, not because its not possible or because scripture is false, but rare because admonishment requires two humble people acting out of a deep love for one another. Admonishment is rare because pride and self-focus are the norm.

An attempt at admonishment with pride on the heart produces a few distinctive results. Pride on the side of the one doing the admonishing can creates a person who loves to admonish because it bolsters their own ego and makes them feel important. Every church has this guy who calls out sin and wrong doing at the drop of a hat but refuses to listen to the rebuke of others. The root of this dysfunction is pride. Likewise, pride drives others to apathy causing them to shy away from the hard conversations thinking, “Who am I to tell them how to live.” This type dysfunction is a much more common response in church circles. Conversely, pride in the heart of the one receiving the admonition produces harsh reactions and a rejection of wise counsel. As Proverbs 12:1 says, “whoever hates correction is stupid” and again in 13:18, “poverty and disgrace come to him who ignores instruction.”

Biblical admonition is rooted in love for one another and approached prayerfully by the one giving the admonition. The wise in heart receive the reproof, carefully determine if they are in the wrong and repent quickly when convicted of sin. This type of admonition is an act of worship to God and shows a heart transformed by Jesus.

**Questions:**

1. How would you define admonishment? How have you seen admonishment play out in church circles? For what reasons does admonishment usually go bad for people?
2. What is Paul talking about in Colossians 3 when he uses the phrase, “Put on then...”? How can we put on “compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, patience...etc”?
3. In the message Postmodernism was defined as “question everything.” How could this hijack admonishment? How have you seen this postmodern attitude in your personal interactions? How does the Gospel bring balance to this attitude?
4. Do you agree with the progression of, “Right Thinking/Right Savior/Right Living”? Why or why not?
5. According to 1 Corinthians 4:14-21, what is the end goal of admonishment? How is this different from the typical end result of church admonishment?