

FIVE SECRETS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Acts 4:36

INTRODUCTION:

1. The concept of encouragement is found often in the Bible. (Acts 4.36; John 16.7,13; Heb. 13.22; Acts 9.31; 2 Tim. 4.2)
2. What is the secret of being an encourager?

I. BE A BETTER GIVER

- A. Barnabas was engaged in the act of giving.
 1. Brethren were sharing with one another. (Acts 4.32)
 2. Barnabas had this same mindset. (Acts 4.36,37)
- B. To be an encourager, be more giving. (cf. Phil. 2.4)

II. SPEAK WELL OF OTHERS

- A. Barnabas spoke well of Saul.
 1. Saul was converted but not accepted. (Acts 9.26)
 2. Brethren were still afraid of him. (Acts 9.1,2)
 3. Barnabas brought Saul to the church. (Acts 9.27)
- B. To be an encourager, speak well of others. (Job 4.4)

III. LOOK FOR THE GOOD IN OTHERS

- A. Barnabas saw the good in the brethren in Antioch.
 1. Brethren were scattered to Antioch. (Acts 11.19)
 2. Barnabas had “seen the grace of God.” (Acts 11.21,22)
- B. To be an encourager, see the good in others. (Phil. 2.14)

IV. BE A MENTOR

- A. Barnabas was a mentor to Saul.
 1. Great things were happening. (Acts 11.24)
 2. Barnabas sought out Saul. (Acts 11.25,26)
- B. To be an encourager, be a mentor. (2 Tim. 2.2)

V. DO NOT BE OVERLY HARSH

- A. We can be too hard on others. (Ecc. 7.16; Luke 11.46)
- B. Barnabas fought those who were binding the laws that were no longer to be bound. (Acts 15.1,2)

CONCLUSION: We can all be better encouragers.

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

FEBRUARY 26, 2023

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”

-Mark 16.15

February 26, 2023

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR SAINTHOOD?

It is commonly taught that true saints cannot be alive. Catholic doctrine teaches that one becomes a saint when a Christian dies and is then canonized into sainthood by a ceremonial procedure. It is claimed that a saint is a Christian who, after death, is recognized for a life of charity and virtues, and has performed a miracle.

The Bible, however, defines saints in very different terms. The word “saint” comes from the Greek word “hagios.” It is properly defined as “holy, separated”. It is found numerous times within the New Testament and is always used synonymously with the word “Christian”, “believer”, and “disciple” (Phil. 1.1; Rom. 1.7).

When Paul wrote to the “*saints and faithful brethren in Colossae*” (Col. 1.2), he was not writing to a small group of elite Christians that are a cut above the rest of the believers. Purity and holiness are required of all of God’s people. Christians are commanded to “*come out from among them and be separate*” (2 Cor. 6.14-18). They are told to “*be holy*” (1 Pet. 1.15,16).

Honest students of the Bible will use Bible names in Bible ways. It is when we redefine the terms of the Bible that we begin to fall away from the pattern of the New Testament and depart from the faith (1 Tim. 4.1-3). Therefore let us always “*be diligent...rightly dividing the word of truth*” (2 Tim. 2.15)! CLP

GOD'S DESIGNS FOR MARRIAGE WORK

COLOSSIANS 3:18,19

INTRODUCTION:

1. Our culture has been moving away from traditional marriage and redefining what it means to be a family.
2. Marriage is an institution created and designed by God.

I. GOD PROVIDES DESIGNS AND PATTERNS

- A. God gave Noah a blueprint for building the ark.
 1. **GENESIS 6.15:** *“And this is how you shall make it”*
 2. Noah followed the design perfectly. (Gen. 6.22)
- B. God gave Moses a blueprint for building the tabernacle.
 1. **HEBREWS 8.5:** *“See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.”*
 2. Moses was told exactly how to do it. (Ex. 25.9)

II. A BROAD LOOK AT COLOSSIANS

- A. Who wrote the book of Colossians?
 1. **COLOSSIANS 1.1:** *“Paul, and apostle of Jesus Christ”*
 2. It was actually written by God. (2 Tim. 3.16)
- B. To whom was the book of Colossians written?
 1. **COLOSSIANS 1.2:** *“to the saints and faithful brethren”*
 2. These were people who were separated from the world.
- C. Why was the book of Colossians written?
 1. This is a book emphasizing Christ as the authority.
 2. **COLOSSIANS 1.18:** *“And He is the head of the body”*

III. GOD HAS A DESIGN FOR THE INDIVIDUAL

- A. The individual Christian is to be Christ-centered.
 1. I am to be focused on Christ. (Col. 3.1)
 2. How am I to be focused? (Col. 3.2)
 3. Why am I to be focused? (Col. 3.3,4)
- B. The individual Christians is to be changed.
 1. There are things I must put off. (Col. 3.5,8)
 2. There are things I must put on. (Col. 3.10,12)

IV. GOD HAS A DESIGN FOR THE FAMILY

- A. God's design for the wife. (Col. 3.18)
- B. God's design for the husband. (Col. 3.19)

CONCLUSION: When you build your marriage in keeping with God's design, it will always work!

CAN KNOWING TOO MUCH BE DANGEROUS?

In the beginning, God created the first humans and placed them in the garden of Eden. He gave them two commands. First, He gave them a positive commandment: *“Be fruitful and multiply”* (Gen. 1.22). Second, He gave them a prohibitive commandment: *“Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die”* (Gen. 2.15).

Why did God command Adam and Eve not to eat of the tree that would give them knowledge? Is it possible that knowing too much is dangerous? As you follow the historical account, Eve broke God's commandment (with the devil's encouragement), and *“she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate”* (Gen. 3.6). What happened next is fascinating and gives some insight as to why God did not want them to eat of the tree of knowledge.

The very next verse tells us that after they ate the fruit, *“Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings”* (Gen. 3.7). The inspired text tells us that the first thing that they came to know is that they were naked. They then took action to cover themselves. Some time passes and God approached them. They hear Him coming and hide. Why did they hide? Adam explains, *“I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself”* (Gen. 3.10). Where did they get such knowledge? God asked the same thing? *“Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded that you should not eat?”* (Gen. 3.11). Eating of the tree gave them knowledge. They now learned that they were naked. They also learned that being naked was shameful. Their reaction to such knowledge was to hide themselves from God.

From this text, we can draw this simple application. Having too much knowledge can be dangerous as it may move us away from God. Having knowledge by itself is not the problem. It is when we take knowledge and fail to use it properly. With all the vaunted knowledge of the Greek philosophers, Paul wrote, *“professing to be wise, they became fools”* (Rom. 1.22). With all the knowledge of how the universe works, many have used that knowledge to generate prolific theories of evolution. With all the knowledge of scholars, many have used that knowledge to establish man-made religions and churches.

It is true that knowledge is power. However, we must assimilate knowledge within the context of God being the source of all things. Knowledge without that context is dangerous and can lead us away from God.