

“And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.”

Romans 15:14

Watch out!

Admonish One Another – Romans 15:14

I was curious as a kid. It caused my parents much grief.

My dad was cleaning out the floor vents. These vents were bigger than the vents we have today. Maybe it is because of my story. I had already learned to crawl and was getting into everything. Of course, I was curious about what my daddy was doing. He had that big noisemaking, sucking thing and was sticking it down into the hole that shoots up air. I had sat on that hole when the air came up and thought it was fun. I crawled over there and thought I would take a look into the hole.

I looked too far.

I tumbled into the vent and ended up on the floor of the basement. I wish that was the only time that my curiosity got the best of me. We've all been there. Our parents yell from across the room, "Don't touch that!" We are then faced with a dilemma. Should I touch it really fast or just make a slow move toward it. Either way, we touch it. It may have been a light socket, the burner on the stove, a glass vase, or an electrical cord, but we touched it and paid the price of being curious. I have caught myself saying, "If only I had listened when I was a kid!"

Describe a time when your curiosity got the best of you even though you were warned.

I know I am not the only one to ignore the warnings of parents. The children of Israel were the same way with God. God had given them many warnings. He had explained to them that these warnings were for their own protection and safety, but Israel didn't listen. Just read through the wilderness wanderings or maybe the time of the judges. It is a sad story, but even sadder because we still do the same thing.

Describe a time when God warned you of something. How did you respond?

Paul talks about the need for believers to admonish one another. How many of you have used the word "admonish" in the past month? This was a word that is only used by Paul in just a few instances in Scripture. In most cases, it is translated "warning". In his letter to the Romans, he compliments them on their growth and their ability to admonish one another (15:14). Then again in Colossians 3:16, we are called to teach and admonish one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

“Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”
Colossians 3:16

What do you think Paul is meaning for us to do in these passages?

The word carries with it an idea of warning, but also the idea of friendly, earnest advice. For some reason we have lost the idea of admonishing one another. We may hesitate to say anything or to offer “friendly, earnest advice.”

Why is it that we sometimes hesitate to warn someone?

It may be because we do not want to look like judges or look too legalistic. It may be because we don’t want to offend someone or call attention to them. We may not want to embarrass them.

When we think of admonishing in a negative sense it can seem very challenging, but let’s consider the positive side of admonishing.

Have you ever told someone to avoid a certain area of road because of the traffic in that area?

Have you ever let someone know the best place to eat a good meal in your town?

Have you ever told someone to slow down because you knew the area had little children?

I could go on, but I think you see where I am headed. We admonish people often. We let them know the good places to go and the bad places to avoid. We let them know if something is going to hurt them. We give them friendly, earnest advice.

Paul calls us to admonish one another, but he gives us a help in knowing how. He first tells us to let the word of God dwell richly or abundantly in you. It is the Word of God that brings us to warn one another and caution each other. This caution comes from the love we are to have for each other.

Love compels us to keep each other out of trouble. If we are to love one another, then we will admonish each other through the Word of God.

It all comes back to our personal relationship with Jesus. Paul says God’s Word needs to dwell in us abundantly. We cannot hope to warn our brothers if we do not know what to warn them of, so let God’s Word challenge you and grow you, then admonish one another.

Don’t be afraid to say, “Watch out!”

What do you need to do in response to this lesson?
