

How to Be an Encourager – Part 3

Introduction:

- The reason we're redeemed by Jesus, is so that the _____ of God would be restored in us.

Rom 8.29a For those whom he foreknew he also **predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son**

- If God is sovereign, and every good gift is from above, then not praising the good that's evident in others is a kind of failure to _____ God give _____ to God Himself.

1. One of the ways we can encourage others is by _____ Christlike qualities that are evident in their lives.

- Three reasons why we should affirm the goodness of God in others:

A. Practicing affirmation is to be _____ to God's command.

Prov 31.30b ...a woman who fears the Lord **is to be praised.**

B. Practicing affirmation is to _____ Jesus' example.

Matt 25.21b "Well done, good and faithful servant."

C. Practicing affirmation is giving God _____ for His good work in someone's life.

1 Cor 4.7b What do you have that you did not **receive?**

1 Cor 15.10 **But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.**

2. How to give _____ affirmation to one another.

A. The good, proper, healthy, important and necessary way to praise _____ is to do it to the glory of _____.

1 Chr 29.25 **And the Lord made Solomon very great in the sight of all Israel and bestowed on him such royal majesty as had not been on any king before him in Israel.**

1 Chr 4.9–10 9 Jabez was **more honorable** than his brothers; and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, “Because I bore him in pain.” 10 Jabez **called upon the God of Israel**, saying, “Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my border, and that your hand might be with me, and that you would keep me from harm so that it might not bring me pain!” **And God granted what he asked.**

Prov 31.30b ...a woman who **fears the Lord** is to be **praised**.

B. Commending commendable people is good, and failing to do so is _____.

James 4.17 So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

• **We can sin in two ways:**

- **By giving idolatrous commendation.**
- **By _____ to commend the commendable.**

Dan 2.37–38 You, O king, the king of kings, to whom **the God of heaven has given** the kingdom, the power, and the might, and the glory, 38 and into whose hand he has given, wherever they dwell, the children of man, the beasts of the field, and the birds of the heavens, making you rule over them all—you are the head of gold.

Luke 1.28 And he came to her and said, “Greetings, **O favored one, the Lord is with you!**”

Heb 11.1–2 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2 For by it the people of old received their **commendation**.

Heb 11.39a And all these, though **commended** through their faith,

• **There are a lot of other examples of this in the Bible:**

- **The Lord affirms Noah as righteous in his generation. Gen 7.1**
- **Pharaoh affirms Joseph as remarkably discerning and wise. Gen 41.39**
- **Boaz commends Ruth as a worthy (virtuous) woman. Ruth 3.11**
- **Saul commends David for being more righteous than he. 1 Sam 24.17**
- **The woman recognizes Elijah as godly and truthful. 1 Kings 17.24**
- **Paul commends Phoebe for her servant ways. Rom 16.1-2**
- **Paul commends the Corinthians for evidences of God’s grace. 1 Cor 1.1-9**

• **Jesus himself, the one to whom belongs all glory, affirms others:**

- **He says His listeners are more valuable than many sparrows. Matt 10.31**
- **He commends the woman of great faith. Matt 15.28**

- He commends the woman with a bad reputation for doing a beautiful thing. Mark 14.6
- He marvels at the faith of the centurion. Luke 7.9
- He praises John the Baptist as a great man. Luke 7.28
- He praises the generosity of the widow. Luke 21.3-4
- He commends Nathaniel for not being a hypocrite. John 1.47

C. Good affirmations commend a particular way the _____ of God is seen in a person, so that He might get the glory.

Rom 11.35–36 “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” 36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

- God-centered affirmations _____ the qualities and evidences of God’s righteousness and grace that are displayed in a person’s life and character.
- The best way to be on the _____ for what’s commendable in people is to see what’s commendable in God!

Psa 150.2 Praise him for his ***mighty deeds***;
praise him according to his ***excellent greatness!***

- It’s fitting to commend people for “mighty deeds”: deeds that demonstrate God’s power and might in their lives, such as:
 - Overcoming bad _____
 - Overcoming _____
 - Overcoming false _____ previously believed
 - Overcoming sexual _____
 - Overcoming trials with _____.
- It’s fitting to commend people for “excellent greatness”: character qualities that demonstrates God’s character, such as:
 - _____ that overcomes an offense from a friend
 - _____ that serves without seeking recognition
 - _____ for God’s glory through the spread of the Gospel
 - _____ in the Lord through a difficult trial
 - Growth in _____

1 Pet 4.10–11 As each has received a gift, ***use it*** to serve one another, ***as good stewards of God’s varied grace***: 11 ***whoever speaks***, as one who speaks oracles of God; ***whoever serves***, as one ***who serves*** by the strength that God supplies—***in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ***. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- God is not given the praise He deserves when we _____ or deny the work He's doing in the lives of others.

Psa 19.1 *The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.*

- When you are commended or complimented by someone for some good thing they see in your life, it's important to _____ the glory to God.

1 Cor 15.10 *But by the grace of God I am what I am...it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.*

3. The _____ of giving God-centered encouragement through affirmation.

1 Cor 14.26 *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.***

Rom 15.2 *Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, **to build him up.***

- Our calling is to _____ and to be blessed.

1 Pet 3.9 *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.***

Prov 11.25 *Whoever brings blessing will be enriched,
and one who waters will himself be watered.*

- Giving encouraging affirmation will _____ unconstructive criticism, the desire to correct, indifference, and neglect in a relationship.
- Giving encouraging affirmation will _____ a response of affirmation and encouragement that will bless and benefit you.
- God is the _____ of those that bless and encourage others.

Matt 10.42 *And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward."*

- It is evidence of God's work of transforming grace in us when we become the kind of person who affirms others not as a chore, but as a _____.

Phil 2.13 *for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*