

Irresistible **INFLUENCE**

THE IMPORTANCE OF A WARNING

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October 31, 2021



GROUP ICE BREAKER

If you could give a piece of advice to your younger self, what would it be?

REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will seek to live a blameless life.
- I will honor God in my relationships.
- I will take steps toward leaving a positive spiritual influence on my family.
- I will do a regular character check, evaluating my spiritual influence.
- I will immerse myself in Scripture in order to benefit people around me.
- I will be a source of encouragement to those around me.

MESSAGE SUMMARY

A warning is a precious gift. Admonishment, or a strong warning, was expected by New Testament writers to be standard operating procedure for the church. Galatians 6:1-3 is the classic text when it comes to admonishment, and it's one of the greatest tests of our maturity as a church.

When is admonishment needed? When someone you know and love, someone you care for, is overcome or stuck. When offered in the right spirit, at the right time, in the right way, it's an expression of love.

What do I do when admonishment is needed? You don't ignore it, gossip about it, or get superior over it. You go to the person in love.

Who should give the warning? Paul doesn't say pastors, or elders, or teachers. He says, "you who are spiritual...", who are sincerely seeking to allow the Holy Spirit to have influence in your life.

There are four aspects to admonishment. First, *admonish with gentleness*. Let them know your heart is not to attack them. Second, *admonish with the whole truth*. The effectiveness rests on your courage to say the whole truth. Third, *admonish with humility*. Be in touch with your own wrongdoing, your own depravity. Lastly, *admonish with patience*. How patient is God with you? Don't you think you can show the same and bear with one another?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Paul told Titus to “sternly reprimand” those with serious character issues. What image does this phrase bring to your mind, especially in the context of a church?
2. Read Titus 1:10-14 and Matthew 18:15-17. How would you characterize the difference between a warning (Titus) and confronting someone (Matthew)?
3. Read Galatians 6:1-2. What are the contrasts between this passage and the cultural mindset of “my life is my business, your life is your business”?
4. To admonish without judgmentalism, superiority, or spiritual pride; or to receive it without getting defensive or crushed will be one of the greatest tests of your spiritual maturity. How have you experienced this to be true in your life?
5. Rate yourself from 1 (low) to 5 (high) on how likely are you to warn someone about sin in their life. Why did you give yourself this score?
6. Matt gave four aspects admonishment is to be done with: gentleness, the whole truth, humility, and patience. Which do you struggle with most and why? Which would those in your group say is your strength?
7. Think of someone in your life that needs the gift of a warning. What has kept you from acting on this? What is one thing you can do this to move towards a conversation?

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

Use these as a guide to take your next step and commit to what you learned this week:

- I will offer a warning when I see someone stuck or overcome by sin.
- I will pray and follow the Spirit's leading when giving a warning.
- When giving a warning, I will do it with gentleness.
- When giving a warning, I will tell the whole truth.
- When giving a warning, I will examine myself for any hint of self-righteousness, pride or spiritual superiority that will do damage.
- When giving a warning, I will approach the person with humility and grace.
- When giving a warning, I will be patient, as God is with me.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Titus 1:10-16
- Colossians 3:16
- Romans 15:14
- Matthew 18:15-17
- Galatians 6:1
- Leviticus 19:17
- Proverbs 25:12
- Titus 2:15
- Galatians 6:3
- Ephesians 4:2
- Ephesians 4:16

PRAYER REQUESTS

Take time to share how you can be praying for each other over the next week:

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