



25

BIBLICAL LESSONS

HOW TO PURPOSEFULLY

ENCOURAGE &

BUILD UP ONE ANOTHER

TO THE GLORY OF GOD

PRINTABLE RESOURCE GUIDE

A LOOK AT ROMANS 12

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Encouragement isn't meant to be bottled up, saved or kept for yourself. Walking out God's Word in your life is one of the most sure-fire ways to let your light shine and be a strong, encouraging force in the lives of others. Whether it's your brothers and sisters in the Lord, or those outside of the household of faith, here are 25 ways to live with purpose and be an encouragement to those for whom Christ died, using Romans 12:9-21 as a reference.

25 BIBLICAL LESSONS: HOW TO ENCOURAGE & BUILD UP ONE ANOTHER

1. *Let your love be without hypocrisy.*

The love you show should be true, trustworthy and pure. It should be genuine and unquestionable. 1 Corinthians 13 is a good reminder of what love is. It's such a familiar chapter you can read over it and let the words go in one ear and out the other. Take some time to really meditate on the words. Sometimes, when reading that passage, I like to replace the word "love" with "Jesus." It reminds me what love truly is and looks like when it is walked out.

2. *Detest what is evil.*

You should hate the things the Lord hates. Standing against the detestable things of this world not only shows those around you that they are wrong, but encourages them to stand along with you as well.

3. *Cling to what is good.*

The Lord calls you to meditate on things that are true, honorable, lovely, just and worthy of praise (Philippians 4:8). Show others what is truly good-- the things of the Lord. Unlike the things of the world, these good things don't fade away.

4. *Love and be devoted to one another with brotherly affection.*

Have a warm attitude and show kindness, devotion and affection to others.

5. *Give preference to one another in honor.*

Regard others as better than yourself. Putting others first shows them that they are valued and loved, and is one of the greatest forms of encouragement.

6. Don't lag behind in diligence.

You aren't always going to feel like encouraging others, showing preference to others, or showing your love and devotion. Sometimes you're tired. Maybe its laziness. But, the Christian life is no place for complacency or laziness. You need to be diligent to do the work the Lord has called you to, at the time He calls you to it. Redeem the time (Ephesians 5:16). Your diligence encourages others to also be diligent in their walk.

7. Be fervent in spirit.

Fervent means displaying passionate intensity. Do you exhibit passion and intensity for the Lord? Passion and intensity are contagious and encouraging to witness.

8. Serve the Lord.

Will you do what you are called to do-- right now, today? Serving the Lord doesn't have to come with big fanfare and flashing lights. You can serve Him in countless little ways throughout the day. Cleaning up after your family, cooking someone a meal, shopping for someone or braiding your niece's hair-- in all of these things you can serve the Lord as you serve others. Being mindful and aware of what He's asking you to do in each moment provides opportunities for others to be encouraged by your actions.

9. Rejoice in hope.

Where does your hope lie? Is it in Christ alone, or in the results you are seeking? Your neighbor needs hope. Your child needs hope. Show them that hope and the reason you can rejoice.

10. Be patient in tribulation.

Have you ever witnessed another believer going through a trial with a smile? Seeing the evidence of genuine patience in another person, despite their hard circumstances, is one of the most encouraging things for your soul. It's not easy, by any means, but holding onto your hope in Christ and having the peace that surpasses understanding is a strong testimony to the God who saved you.

11. Continue steadfastly in prayer.

Praying keeps you close to the Lord because you're continually entering into His presence. Help to bring others before the Lord as well. When you pray for others, even those who have never said an amen themselves, you breathe a breath of encouragement to them-- especially when the prayer comes from someone who has a close relationship with the One who is listening. Remind others that the Lord is in control, not them.

12. Contribute to the needs of the saints.

If you're a part of a loving church family, I probably don't have to tell you how encouraging it is to receive a meal when you're sick or had a surgery, to have someone lay a hand on you and pray for you, or receive a helping hand when you're moving to your new home. Be sensitive to the needs of those around you.

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith." (Galatians 6:10)

13. Seek to show hospitality.

Are you warm, loving, and welcoming in your interactions with others? Did you notice the new family at church last week, and introduce yourself? Hospitality doesn't just refer to how you treat people when you invite them into your home. You can be hospitable in other places too. It's a heart attitude that's exhibited in your actions. However, on the note of inviting others to your home-- don't despise the idea of little visits. Again, serving the Lord doesn't require a lot of fanfare and fancy dishes. You can have coffee in take out cups and cookies on paper plates. The sink doesn't have to be free of dishes, a few Legos can be on the floor, and maybe you haven't dusted in 3 weeks. It doesn't matter. A heart that is warm, caring, and inviting creates the best atmosphere for any home.

14. Bless those who persecute you. Do not curse them.

Jesus is our example in this. How surprising is it to the persecutor when the one being persecuted blesses him instead of cursing him? You're called to be different, which means your actions and reactions need to be different than what the world tells you to do. Allow the Lord to avenge you, and in the meantime, let others see Christ in your actions.

15. Rejoice with those who rejoice.

Rejoicing alone is good. Rejoicing with someone alongside you is even better. When you hear good news about someone else, take the time to call, text or visit in order to congratulate them and share how the news blessed your heart.

16. Weep with those who weep.

We aren't meant to travel this world alone. Just as it brings joy to another when you rejoice with her, it brings comfort when when you weep with her. Even if you've personally never experienced what she's going through and you don't know what to say, your presence alone can bring comfort. It's encouraging to know that someone else cares about what she's going through and desires to help her walk through it. Here is advice I heard some time ago: When someone is going through a trial, instead of asking, "Is there anything I can do for you?", or saying, "Let me know if there's anything I can do for you.", just DO SOMETHING. An unexpected, kind gesture may be exactly what is needed.

17. *Be of the same mind toward one another.*

I think that as you rejoice with those who are rejoicing and weep with those who are weeping, you are putting yourself in the position to be of the same mind toward one another. Do you seek to be considerate of what others are going through? Do you seek unity with your brothers and sisters in the Lord?

18. *Don't set your mind on high things; associate with the lowly.*

There are people with whom you come across everyday who you can serve. Purpose to notice others, especially those who are alone, standing or sitting by themselves, and those in need. Do you tend to stay so closely within your own circle that you forget to include others? Be the person who extends help, love, and compassion.

19. *Don't be wise in your own opinion.*

We all know that no one likes a “smartypants,” but that isn’t quite what this means. Being wise only has value if that wisdom comes from the Lord. It means nothing if it comes from ourselves. The Lord wants us to not only be willing to take instruction from His Word, but also humble enough to live it out. Our opinions and all of our own thoughts should not be the final protocol by which we live; this puts us in a position to be self-focused as opposed to focusing on others.

20. *Don't repay evil for evil.*

Vengeance belongs to the Lord, not you. You can be an encouragement to your enemies simply by treating them better than they treat you. Show love.

21. *Have regard for what is right in the sight of all people.*

Do people see the goodness of the Lord reflected in how you conduct yourself and live your life? As a believer, you should hate what the Lord hates and see evil in what He sees as evil. The way you live your life should give others a clear indication of who God is, as well as what He is for and against.

22. *So far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all people.*

This one is definitely more easily understood than lived. It's not always easy to live peaceably with everyone, especially in a world that seems to thrive on conflict. But, this is what the Lord calls us to do. One of the most important parts of this sentence, I believe, is the first several words: *So far as it depends on you*. It's never about waiting for others to make the first move. Jesus didn't wait for us to love Him before He willingly died for us; therefore, we too should be willing to take the first steps do loving things.

23. *Never take your own revenge; leave room for the wrath of God.*

As stated earlier, vengeance belongs to the Lord. Letting the Lord ultimately handle the situations in your life is proof that you believe His Word and fully trust that His ways are best. Our anger and wrath only cause us to sin. The Lord knows how to handle it all.

24. *Take care of the needs of your enemies.*

See Proverbs 25:21-22. The Lord rewards this type of kindness. Showing love to those who are against you is one of the greatest ways to live out the gospel right in front of their faces. You once were an enemy of God, yet He showed you love by sending His Son to die on the cross for your sins. Who knows if your kindness in taking care of the practical needs of an enemy is all that is needed to win him or her to Christ?

25. *Do not be overcome by evil; overcome evil with good.*

Jesus already overcame the world. His victory is our victory. Be encouraged-- you need not feel the weight of the world on your shoulders. Don't let stress and the negative things of this world consume you. If you have Christ, you have all the good you need to overcome. Others need to see and understand this. Share this hope with them.

You are a woman created on purpose. You are called to be different; to not be conformed to the world and its ways. Being intentional with your life, in the ways you act and encourage, can only be done through the transforming power of the Lord.

So, go forth and encourage on purpose.

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” (Romans 12:12-2)

The list of “25 Biblical Lessons” is based on Romans 12:9-21.
Read the full chapter to grow greater in your understanding of the Lord's intentions for us.

