

Encourage One Another

by Bryan Gibson

Recently I asked several **young** Christians this simple question: “Are you more encouraged by what fellow Christians SAY, or by what they DO?” While they certainly did not discount the value of encouraging words, they all agreed that actions speak louder than words.

I then asked them to be more specific, to tell me some things they’ve observed other Christians do (or say) that encouraged them. Here’s the list, and I would encourage you to add your own. By the way, I think you’ll be able to see just how closely they’re watching.

Seeing married Christians, without a faithful spouse, continue to faithfully serve the Lord.

Seeing Christians attend gospel meetings at other local congregations.

Seeing young Christians make an effort to get to know each other, and to maintain friendships with each other.

Seeing Christians really engaged in a sermon, whether by taking notes, turning to the Scriptures, or by just giving very careful attention.

Seeing the often underappreciated work deacons do (organizing class material, updating the directory, audio/visual chores, building maintenance, etc.).

Seeing Christians arrive early to services, indicating just how excited they are to be there.

Seeing Christians stay late after services to talk with their brethren.

Seeing Christians warmly greet those who visit services, especially visitors who aren’t Christians.

Seeing Christians show hospitality, knowing the time, planning, and expense that goes into it.

Seeing Christians “struggle” back to services after an injury or illness, making it clear that they really missed being there.

Seeing elderly Christians, or Christians feeble with illness, still determined to do all they can in the kingdom.

Seeing the love, comfort, and compassion of Christians at a funeral, knowing that some of these Christians traveled a great distance to be there.

Seeing young unmarried couples take extraordinary measures to maintain their purity, some perhaps even refusing to be alone together.

Seeing Christians come to the aid of small, struggling churches, ones that maybe don't have the people needed to fill various roles.

Seeing Christians respond when you need their help, sometimes going out of their way to do so, or perhaps changing their own plans.

Seeing Christians buck the trend and make every effort to dress modestly.

Hearing parents ask what they can do to help their children be ready for the class you're teaching.

Receiving a "well done" from a fellow-Christian, whether in person, or by letter, email, etc.

Brethren, keep doing these things, and everything else involved in faithful service. It's obviously making a big impact.

"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing" (1 Thessalonians 5:11, ESV).