

Uncommon community is not something that is found. It is something that is built and protected.

Discuss the statement above. What danger is there to a person who believes community is found rather than built. How could that affect his/her marriage, career, or church involvement?

Who built the communities you are associated with? What did it take to build them? What would it take to tear them down?

1) Admit your need for encouragement.

Go ahead...do it! Tell others in your group you are not a machine. Tell them why you need encouragement.

Everyone receives encouragement differently. What encourages you most? How can others in your group encourage you this week? (Words, actions, prayer, etc.)

Would you admit that you find yourself in any of the following categories?

- **Idle Christians need the admonition of uncommon community.**

Idle means “out of step” or “out of line”. How have you been “out of line”? What do you need from this community to get you back in line?

- **Fainthearted Christians need the encouragement of uncommon community.**

Fainthearted means timid or “small of soul”. What is your biggest fear? What is it keeping you from accomplishing? How can your community help you overcome those fears?

- **Weak Christians need the help of uncommon community.**

Weak means “fragile of faith”. What could you believe God for if you had the help of an uncommon community?

2) Adopt the role of an encourager.

Refer to the three categories above. Who do you know in those categories? How can you become an encouragement to those people?

Admonition means to “put into someone’s head” a warning to alert them to the consequences of their actions. Who do you need to warn? About what?

Encouragement means to “come along side” to provide a presence that removes fear. Who needs your encouragement to remove fear?

Help means to “to hold or support.” In what way are you strong? Who needs your strength? How will you provide it?

- **All Christians need the patience of uncommon community.**

Who has shown patience with you? How are you reflecting that to others? Is it difficult for you to trust God’s timing to change others?

3) Acquire the ability to encourage yourself in the Lord. (1Samuel 30:1-6)

Read 1Samuel 30:1-6. Not exactly a great day for David. Yet he found a way to encourage himself in the Lord. Ultimately we cannot rely on anyone but the Lord for encouragement.

An uncommon community is marked by people who can encourage one another because they have found encouragement outside of the community!

What truths from scripture bring encouragement in your darkest moments?

Additional Scripture

- Hebrew 3:12-13
- Romans 15:5
- 1Corinthians 14:3
- 2Corinthians 1:4-11
- Philippians 1:3-6
- Philippians 2:1-14
- 2Thess 2:16-17
- 1Kings 19:1-19