

**The body of Christ is a family ...** verses 1-2

1. **We must be careful with the way that we approach each other.** verse 1a  
"Do not rebuke an older man"
2. **At the core of how we relate to each other is encouragement ...** verse 1b-2  
"exhort ..."

*Encouragement requires that we ...*

- **How do you encourage a father?**  
"exhort him as if he were your Father"
- **How do you encourage a brother?**  
"younger men as brothers"
- **How do you encourage a mother?**  
"older women as mothers"
- **How do you encourage a sister?**  
"younger women as sisters, with absolute purity"

*Encouragement flows from taking on a new identity.*

**APPLICATION**

1. **Who, in the body of Christ, do you need to exhort/encourage?**

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**What will you do? Be specific.**

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2. **What would it look like to see the family of God as your primary family?**

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**Quote:**

"Following Jesus means that some things in life are more important than marital status. But as Christians, we should not think of ourselves primarily in terms of our relationship with another person, even a spouse. Whether we are single or married, our primary identity is as followers of Jesus Christ and members of the household of God." **Albert Hsu**

**Suggested Resource:** *Encouragement*, Larry Crabb & Dan Allender