

**Complainer or Encourager  
(Marriage Matters)  
1 Thess 5:11-19, 22 (ESV)  
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Good evening. We are on the eve of Valentine's Day. This is one of the most expensive holidays there is. It is stated that the "Average spending on Valentine's Day is expected to be a record \$161.96 per person this year despite fewer people celebrating the holiday. Also, this is probably one of the most disappointing holidays as some will not get what they want. Will you be an encourager or complainer? We are called to build one another up.

*1 Thessalonians 5:11-19 and 22 (ESV) - 11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. 12 We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, 13 and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. 14 And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle,[c] encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. 15 See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 Do not quench the Spirit...22 Abstain from every form of evil.*

A. We are called to be encouragers – 1 Thess 5:11 (ESV)

- a. Don't be a hypocrite - Matthew 7:5 (ESV)
- b. You will be held accountable - Matthew 12:36 (ESV)

B. We are called to respect one another – 1 Thess 5:12 (ESV)

One dictionary defines "admonish" this way:

- a. To counsel (another) against something to be avoided or warn (that something is dangerous)
- b. To urge or exhort (someone to do something)
- c. To remind (someone) of something forgotten or disregarded, as an obligation or a responsibility, or to reprove gently but earnestly.

C. We are called to peace – 1 Thess 5:13 (ESV)

- a. Choose not to grumble - James 5:9 (ESV),
- b. Choose not to argue - Philippians 2:14-15 (ESV)
- c. Choose to think positive - Philippians 4:8 (ESV)

D. We are called to admonish and carry each other – 1 Thess 5:14 (ESV), Philippians 6:2 (ESV), Proverbs 12:25 (ESV)

E. We are called to do good to each other – 1 Thess 5:15 (ESV). Romans 12:17a, Romans 12:19a (ESV), Proverbs 15:1 (ESV)