

Church Growth

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I. Introduction.

- A. Barnabas had a unique ability to encourage.
- B. This is one of the great needs of the church today.

II. Barnabas encouraged by the example of his sacrifice.

- A. The early church sold everything they had and laid it at the feet of the apostles.
- B. Barnabas likely instigated this movement by selling what he had and giving it to the church.
- C. A sacrificial lifestyle will stir others on to be sacrificial as well.

III. Barnabas encouraged the church by being courageous.

- A. He signed his own death warrant by reaching out to the Christian murdering Saul.
- B. He had the gift of discernment to see that Saul was changed.
- C. He was willing to go against the feelings of the church.

IV. Barnabas was sent to encourage other churches.

- A. To encourage you have to have purpose of heart.
- B. To encourage you must cleave to the Lord.

V. Barnabas was willing to admit that he took the group as far as he could and was willing to move on.

VI. Barnabas built up Mark after his failure.

Application questions:

1. Which aspect of Barnabas's encouragement do you find most challenging? Explain.

2. What does it mean to have purpose in heart?

3. Who have people failed to give a chance to in your circles? How can you be a Barnabas to this person?
