

Hey man, that was great: what you did!

Romans 1:8 “First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.”

1 Corinthians 4:17 “For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord,”

Over and over Paul praised or complimented brethren and churches. It must be the Christ like thing to do. Because Paul also said “Imitate me, just as I also *imitate* Christ.”

1 Corinthians 11:1

It is an easy thing to do. Even the most scurrilous individual will have some good traits. Find and praise the good in everyone you know. It will help to gain friendship, and provide the opportunity to make needed correction without alienation. Of course, one must not lie. There is a difference between flattery and true compliment. A person may use flattery as a means of “buttering up” someone else for purposes of self interest, or for reciprocal ego boosting. A genuine compliment will go far toward helping the recipient to be more productive in the area of their own capabilities, and may encourage them to gain other abilities, as well.

On the other hand, there are some brethren who seem to feel it is their special calling to criticize, harp on and nag about every conceivable matter. They may try to justify themselves, at least to themselves, by claiming to be defenders of “the faith”. Such thinking implies that their hearers do not care about “the faith”. This characteristic causes the person who possesses it to be shunned or ignored by others and negates the good they might have been able to accomplish. Unfortunately, some who withhold compliments from others seem to think that somehow it will diminish self if they praise others for a job well done.

Brother Paul wrote to the Corinthians and said, “Now I **praise** you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered *them* to you.” **1 Corinthians 11:2** He also said to the elders at Ephesus “So now, brethren, I **commend** you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.” **Acts 20:32**

The next time we may feel like criticizing someone severely, let us all instead, try to compliment them sincerely.

CAB

A BAROMETER TO DETERMINE HOW PHYSICALLY SICK YOU

REALLY ARE!

If you miss the worship assembly of the church, you **may** be sick.

If you miss a day of work and pay, you are **probably** sick.

If you miss a social or sporting event you love, you are **really** sick!

If you are spiritually sick, and miss heaven, you will be **more than** sick!

Therefore, **get well!**

COMMITMENT(?)

If I am truly committed to the Lord, His Word, His Church and the hope of heaven, will it be necessary for anyone to remind me that I have a responsibility to gather in worship with the church unless I am too sick? True commitment means I want to serve the Lord in every way that I am able without question.