



True Story #1

A black and white photograph of a cobblestone street. In the upper left, a portion of a car's wheel and tire is visible. The foreground is dominated by a large, out-of-focus, light-colored object, possibly a person's shoulder or arm, which is partially obscuring the view of the cobblestones. The cobblestones are arranged in a herringbone pattern.

True Story #2



#BBTCTrueStory

”This sermon is terrible. Don’t invite this speaker back 🗨️”

“I left that ministry cos they refused to take any of my suggestions”

“I cannot worship properly here. The music is too soft/loud/slow/fast...”

“I don’t need to be part of a Cell Group. There’s nothing they can teach me”

“The monthly free breakfast really CMI”

“The banner at the junction is not funny lor. FIRE THE DESIGNER”



Church Culture



Church

A gathering of God's people

Culture

The sum of our beliefs & behaviours



Culture
can shape us...

... or we can shape
Culture



Church
must be
Christlike
Culture

BBTC's famous "NO"s...

5 **CANCERS:**

- No condemnation
- No comparison
- No competition
- No complaining
- No critical spirit

ONLY ...

- **Constant encouragement**
- **Complement one another**
- **Celebrate one another**
- **Constructive conversations**
- **Charity**

5 CANCERS:

- No condemnation
- No comparison
- No competition
- No complaining
- No critical spirit

ONLY ...

- **Constant encouragement**
- **Complement one another**
- **Celebrate one another**
- **Constructive conversations**
- **Charity**

No condemnation.
Only encouragement!



5 CANCERS:

- No condemnation
- No comparison
- No competition
- No complaining
- No critical spirit

ONLY ...

- Constant encouragement
- Complement one another
- Celebrate one another
- Constructive conversations
- Charity

CONDEMNATION IS ...

Being judgmental, strong disapproval, censure, finding guilty, writing off

BUT DOESN'T THE BIBLE CALL US TO JUDGE BELIEVERS?

1 Corinthians 5:12 “It isn’t your responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is your responsibility to **judge those inside church** who are sinning.”



5 CANCERS:

ONLY ...

- No condemnation → **Constant encouragement**
- No comparison → **Complement one another**
- No competition → **Celebrate one another**
- No complaining → **Constructive conversations**
- No critical spirit → **Charity**

BUT DOESN'T THE BIBLE CALL US TO JUDGE BELIEVERS?

1 Corinthians 5:12 “It isn’t your responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is your responsibility to **judge those inside church** who are sinning.”

THERE IS JUDGMENT, AND THERE IS JUDGMENT

Judgment among believers = discernment of sin, not to condemn, but to bring them to a place of awareness and repentance.

JAMES 5:19-20 “If one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.”



5 CANCERS:

ONLY ...

- No condemnation → **Constant encouragement**
- No comparison → **Complement one another**
- No competition → **Celebrate one another**
- No complaining → **Constructive conversations**
- No critical spirit → **Charity**

THE PROBLEM WITH CONDEMNATION

Jesus doesn't condemn (John 3:17)! What gives us the right to write anyone off? Even when we sin, grace and forgiveness abound! (Romans 8:1)

Romans 8:33-35 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. **Who then is the one who condemns? No one.** Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Romans 14:4 Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls.



5 CANCERS:

ONLY ...

- No condemnation → **Constant encouragement**
- No comparison → **Complement one another**
- No competition → **Celebrate one another**
- No complaining → **Constructive conversations**
- No critical spirit → **Charity**

THE PROBLEM WITH CONDEMNATION

James 3:13 Judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

Matthew 7:1-5 “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. **Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?** You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”



5 CANCERS:

ONLY ...

- No condemnation → **Constant encouragement**
- No comparison → **Complement one another**
- No competition → **Celebrate one another**
- No complaining → **Constructive conversations**
- No critical spirit → **Charity**

OUR GOD IS A GOD OF ENCOURAGEMENT!

Romans 15:4-5 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through **the encouragement of the Scriptures** we might have hope.
May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus ...



5 CANCERS:

- No condemnation
- No comparison
- No competition
- No complaining
- No critical spirit

ONLY ...

- Constant encouragement
- Complement one another
- Celebrate one another
- Constructive conversations
- Charity

HE ENCOURAGES US, AND BIDS US TO BE ENCOURAGERS TOO

Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for **building up**, as fits the occasion, that it may **give grace** to those who hear.

Romans 15:1-2 We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please our neighbours **for their good, to build them up**.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore **encourage one another** and **build one another up**, just as you are doing.



5 CANCERS:

- No condemnation
- No comparison
- No competition
- No complaining
- No critical spirit

ONLY ...

- Constant encouragement
- Complement one another
- Celebrate one another
- Constructive conversations
- Charity

Acts 4

³⁶ Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means ^tson of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, ³⁷ sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and ^ulaid it at the apostles' feet.

Acts 9

Saul in Jerusalem

²⁶ And ^twhen he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. ²⁷ But ^uBarnabas took him and ^vbrought him to the apostles and declared to them ^whow on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and ^xhow at Damascus he had ^ypreached boldly in the name of Jesus. ²⁸ So he went ^zin and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. ²⁹ And he spoke and disputed against ^athe Hellenists. ³



5 CANCERS:

- No condemnation
- No comparison
- No competition
- No complaining
- No critical spirit

ONLY ...

- Constant encouragement
- Complement one another
- Celebrate one another
- Constructive conversations
- Charity

No condemnation.
Only encouragement!



5 CANCERS:

- No condemnation
- No comparison
- No competition
- No complaining
- No critical spirit

ONLY ...

- **Constant encouragement**
- **Complement one another**
- **Celebrate one another**
- **Constructive conversations**
- **Charity**

No comparison.
Complement one another!

No competition.
Celebrate one another!

5 CANCERS:

- No condemnation
- No comparison
- No competition
- No complaining
- No critical spirit

ONLY ...

- Constant encouragement
- Complement one another
- Celebrate one another
- Constructive conversations
- Charity

UNHEALTHY COMPARISON/COMPETITION IN THE BIBLE

1. Jacob & Esau. Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing their father Isaac had given him. “The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob.” (Gen 27:41)

2. Leah & Rachel. “Surely my husband will love me now.” (Gen 29:32)

3. Prodigal son & brother. “All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!” (Luke 15:29-30)



5 CANCERS:

- No condemnation
- No comparison
- No competition
- No complaining
- No critical spirit

ONLY ...

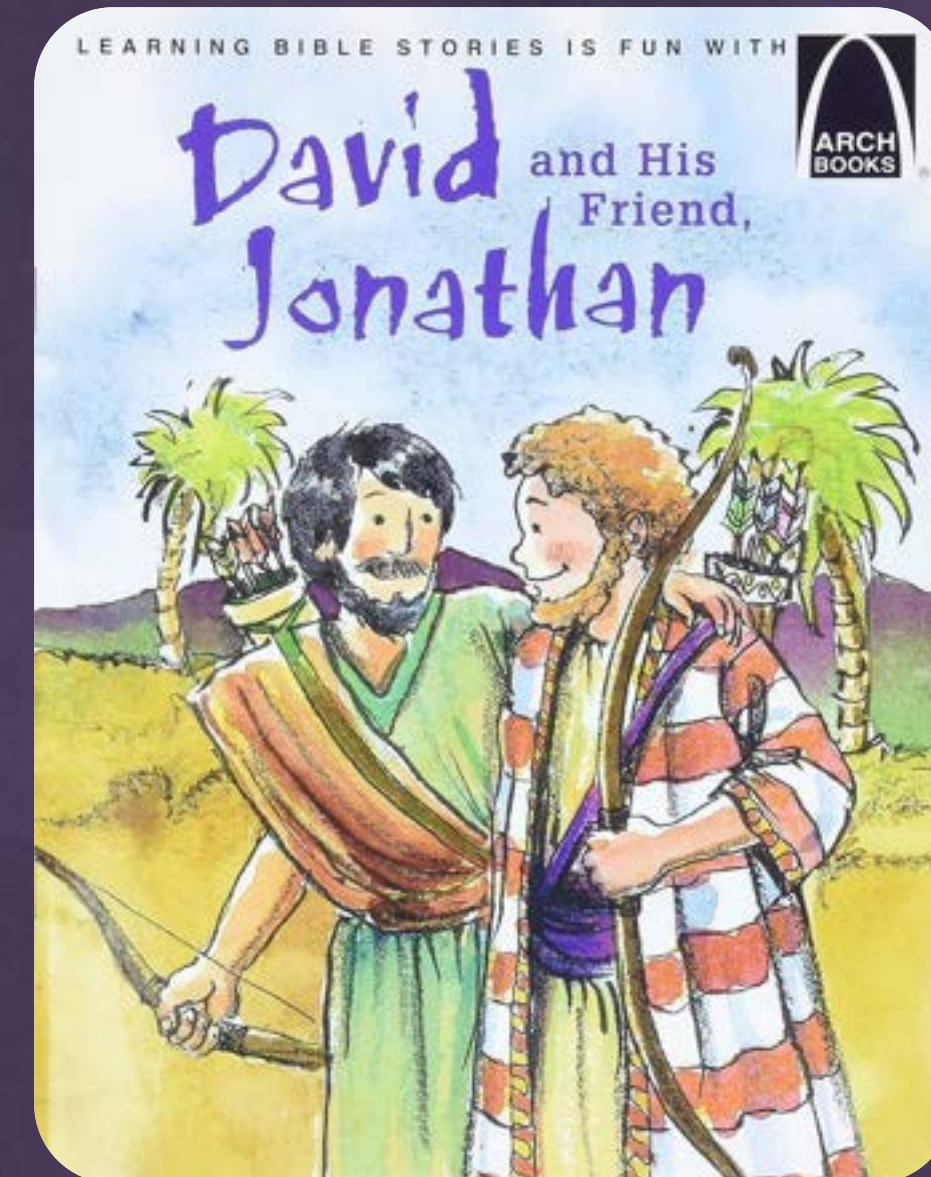
- Constant encouragement
- Complement one another
- Celebrate one another
- Constructive conversations
- Charity

David & Saul



VS

David & Jonathan



5 CANCERS:

- No condemnation → **Constant encouragement**
- No comparison → **Complement one another**
- No competition → **Celebrate one another**
- No complaining → **Constructive conversations**
- No critical spirit → **Charity**

David & Saul



After David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul ... As they danced, they sang: “Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands.”

Saul was very angry; this refrain displeased him greatly. “They have credited David with tens of thousands,” he thought, “**but me with only thousands.**” **1 Sam 18:7-8**

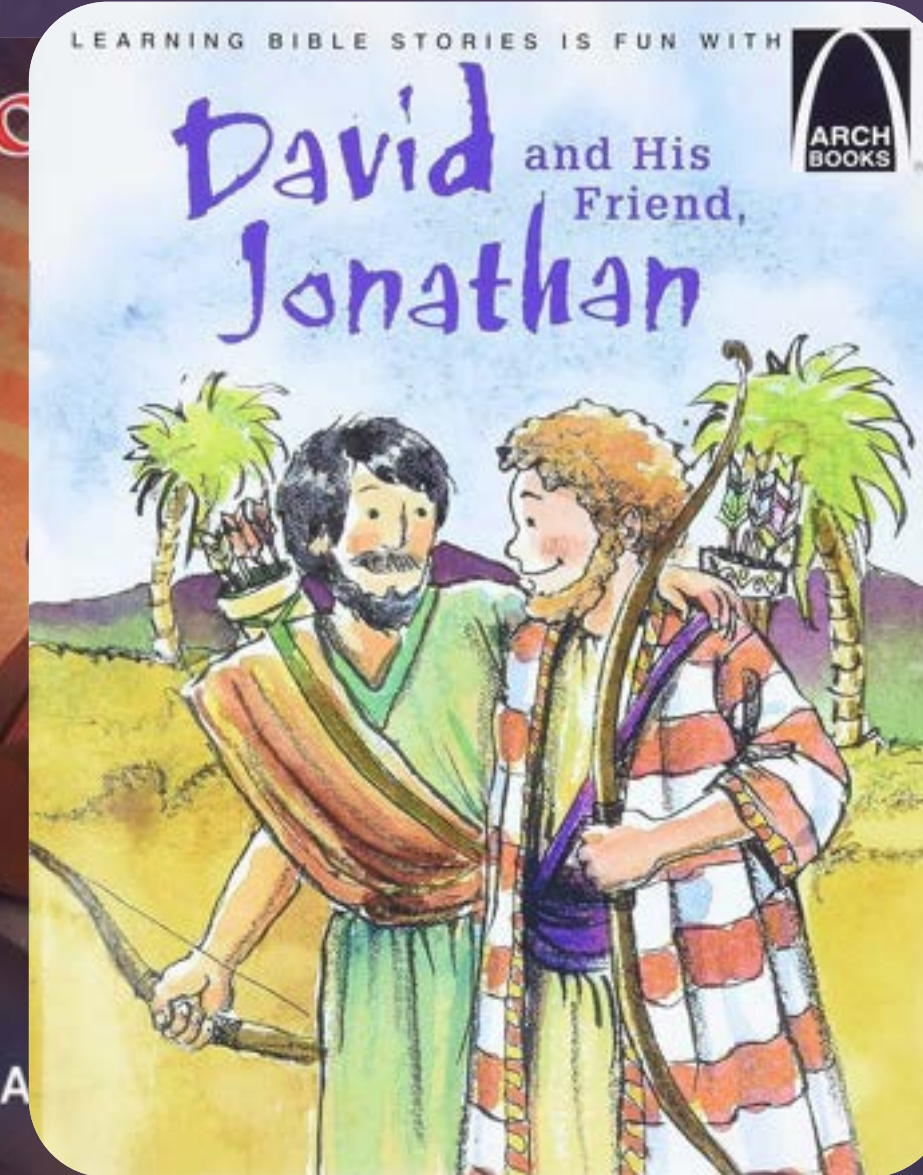


5 CANCERS:

- No condemnation
- No comparison
- No competition
- No complaining
- No critical spirit

ONLY ...

- Constant encouragement
- Complement one another
- Celebrate one another
- Constructive conversations
- Charity



David & Jonathan

And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic, and even his sword, his bow and his belt. **1 Sam 18:3-4**

Jonathan told David: "You will be king over Israel, and I will be second to you. Even my father Saul knows this."

The two of them made a covenant before the Lord. **1 Sam 23:16-18**



5 CANCERS:

- No condemnation → **Constant encouragement**
- No comparison → **Complement one another**
- No competition → **Celebrate one another**
- No complaining → **Constructive conversations**
- No critical spirit → **Charity**

ONLY ...

**TO COMPLEMENT IS TO TURN DIFFERENCES INTO STRENGTH,
AND ALLOW OUR INTERACTIONS TO LEAD TO IMPROVEMENT**

Hebrews 10:24-25 Let us consider how to **spur one another to love and good works** ... encouraging one another, all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Proverbs 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, **so one sharpens another**.

Hebrews 3:13 But **exhort one another** every day, as long as it is called “today”, that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.



5 CANCERS:

- No condemnation
- No comparison
- No competition
- No complaining
- No critical spirit

ONLY ...

- Constant encouragement
- Complement one another
- Celebrate one another
- Constructive conversations
- Charity

NEVER TIRE OF CELEBRATING EACH OTHERS' SUCCESS!

- Take the posture of John the Baptist toward Jesus:
“A bridegroom’s friend rejoices with him. I am the bridegroom’s friend, and I am filled with joy at his success.” **John 3:29 NLT**



5 CANCERS:

- No condemnation
- No comparison
- No competition
- No complaining
- No critical spirit

ONLY ...

- Constant encouragement
- Complement one another
- Celebrate one another
- Constructive conversations
- Charity

No comparison.
Complement one another!

No competition.
Celebrate one another!



5 CANCERS:

- No condemnation
- No comparison
- No competition
- No complaining
- No critical spirit

ONLY ...

- Constant encouragement
- Complement one another
- Celebrate one another
- Constructive conversations
- Charity

No complaining.
Have constructive conversations!

No critical spirit.
Choose charity!



5 CANCERS:

- No condemnation
- No comparison
- No competition
- No complaining
- No critical spirit

ONLY ...

- **Constant encouragement**
- **Complement one another**
- **Celebrate one another**
- **Constructive conversations**
- **Charity**

Complaints & Critical Spirit

Numbers 11-16

Complaints about manna • Aaron & Miriam's Contempt
Mutiny of the 10 Spies • The Rebellion of Korah



BBTC Youtube
16-17 Feb 2019



BBTC Youtube
16-17 Feb 2019



LoveSingapore Youtube
17 July 2023



5 CANCERS:

- No condemnation
- No comparison
- No competition
- No complaining
- No critical spirit

ONLY ...

- Constant encouragement
- Complement one another
- Celebrate one another
- Constructive conversations
- Charity

WHAT MIRIAM, AARON & KORAH SAID IN NUMBERS 11-16:

- The people **complained** about their hardships in the hearing of the Lord.
- “Wouldn’t it be better for us to go back to Egypt?”
- “Has the Lord spoken only through Moses? Hasn’t he also spoken **through us**? Why then do you set yourselves **above us**?”
- “We will not come! Isn’t it enough that you brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey to kill us in the wilderness? Now you also want to lord it over us!”



5 CANCERS:

- No condemnation
- No comparison
- No competition
- No complaining
- No critical spirit

ONLY ...

- Constant encouragement
- Complement one another
- Celebrate one another
- Constructive conversations
- Charity

WHAT THIS MIGHT SOUND LIKE IN MODERN DAY CHURCH ...

- The people **complained** about their hardships in the hearing of the Lord.
- “Wouldn’t it be better for us to **visit another church?**”
- “Has the Lord spoken only through **SP**? Hasn’t he also spoken **through us?** Why then do you set yourselves **above us?**”
- “We will not come! Isn’t it enough that **we sometimes come for service and cell group and occasionally even remember to tithe?** Now you also want to lord it over us!”



5 CANCERS:

- No condemnation
- No comparison
- No competition
- No complaining
- No critical spirit

ONLY ...

- Constant encouragement
- Complement one another
- Celebrate one another
- Constructive conversations
- Charity

NUM 11-16: WHAT DOES GOD THINK OF COMPLAINERS?

- “The anger of the Lord burned against them, and he left them.”
- “I have heard the complaints of these grumbling Israelites. How long will this wicked community **grumble against me?** How long will these people **treat me with contempt?** I will strike them down with a plague and destroy them. Not one of them will ever see the land I promised on oath to their ancestors. No one who has treated me with contempt will ever see it.”



5 CANCERS:

- No condemnation
- No comparison
- No competition
- No complaining
- No critical spirit

ONLY ...

- Constant encouragement
- Complement one another
- Celebrate one another
- Constructive conversations
- Charity

THE ROOTS OF A COMPLAINING AND CRITICAL POSTURE:

1. PRIDE. Pride says ...

- “If it were me, I’d do it this way.”
- “My opinion matters more than yours.”
- “Do you know who I am?”
- “Who are you to tell me what to do?!”

2. DISCONTENT. Discontent says ...

- “I don’t appreciate what I *have* ...”
- “... but I’m angry at what I *don’t have*!”
- “I deserve better!”

“Some people
complain about
everything **but never**
tolerate a single
complaint about
themselves”



5 CANCERS:

- No condemnation
- No comparison
- No competition
- No complaining
- No critical spirit

ONLY ...

- Constant encouragement
- Complement one another
- Celebrate one another
- Constructive conversations
- Charity

SEE A PROBLEM? INSTEAD OF COMPLAINING AND CRITICISING, LEARN TO HAVE CONSTRUCTIVE CONVERSATIONS

1. The aim of any church conversation is to achieve our common goal. It is not to win a debate 😊
2. Speak neutrally. Don't put down, corner, assert, insist, pester, fight ...
3. Listen objectively to others' input. Hold your own view lightly.
4. No offences. Don't be offensive. Don't be easily offended.
5. No defensiveness. Don't assume you're under attack.



5 CANCERS:

- No condemnation
- No comparison
- No competition
- No complaining
- No critical spirit

ONLY ...

- Constant encouragement
- Complement one another
- Celebrate one another
- Constructive conversations
- Charity

WE ARE CALLED TO BE NOT CRITICAL, BUT CHARITABLE.

TO LOVE, THINK AND HOPE FOR THE BEST OF ONE ANOTHER.

FROM 1 CORINTHIANS 13 ... *(In some versions, love = charity)*

- 4** Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.
- 5** It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.
- 6** Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.
- 7** It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁴ Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

⁵ Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

⁶ Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

⁷ Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

⁴ Charity is patient, is kind. Charity does not envy, does not act wrongly, is not inflated.

⁵ Charity is not ambitious, does not seek for itself, is not provoked to anger, devises no evil.

⁶ Charity does not rejoice over iniquity, but rejoices in truth.

⁷ Charity suffers all, believes all, hopes all, endures all.



5 CANCERS:

- No condemnation
- No comparison
- No competition
- No complaining
- No critical spirit

ONLY ...

- Constant encouragement
- Complement one another
- Celebrate one another
- Constructive conversations
- Charity

WE ARE CALLED TO BE NOT CRITICAL, BUT CHARITABLE.

WHICH DESCRIBES YOU? WHICH DESCRIBES BBTC?

Patient. Kind.
No envy. No boasting. No pride.
No dishonour.
Not self-seeking.
Not easily angered.
No record of wrongs.
No delight in evil done to others.
Always protects, trusts.
Always hopes, perseveres.

Impatient. Unkind.
Envious. Boastful. Proud.
Dishonouring others.
Serving self over others.
Easily angered.
Keeps a long record of wrongs.
Delights when others come to harm.
Doesn't protect, trust.
Gives up on others really quickly.





5 CANCERS THAT CAN KILL A CHURCH.

No condemnation, only constant encouragement

No comparison, only complementing one another

No competition, only celebrating one another

No complaining, only constructive conversations

No critical spirit, only charity (love in humility)

5 CANCERS THAT CAN KILL A CHURCH.

... But what would it look like if we kill the cancer first?

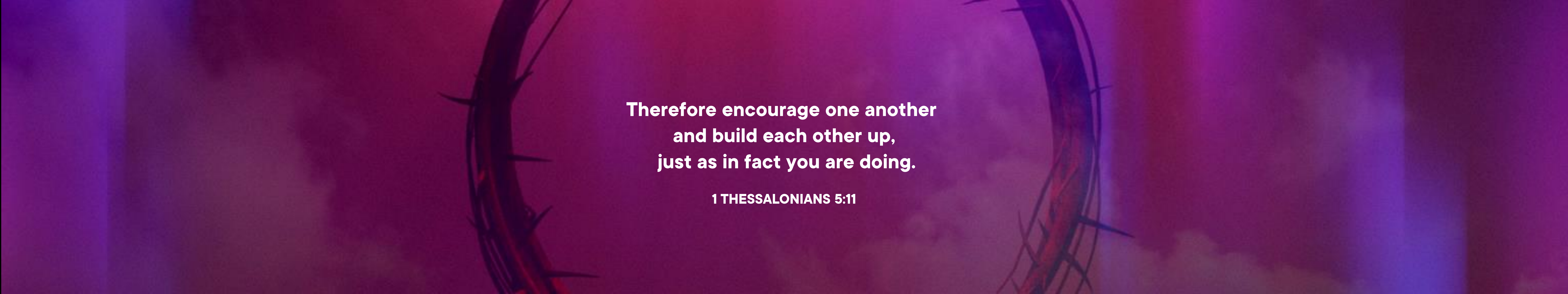


READ THE FULL STORY AT:

<https://storiesofhope.sg/this-store-manager-never-knew-how-her-tears-changed-a-shoplifter-until-30-years-later/>
<https://storiesofhope.sg/how-a-store-managers-simple-act-of-kindness-changed-a-former-shoplifters-life-forever/>



VIDEO



**Therefore encourage one another
and build each other up,
just as in fact you are doing.**

1 THESSALONIANS 5:11