

Many of you have already figured this out, but for those who haven't, allow me to burst your bubbles: **I am not perfect.** I know some of you are very shocked by that and others are saying, "*You are just calling the kettle black*". Whatever the case, I want to put that out there and quote this verse, "***for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God***" (Romans 3:23). That's right, we are all sinners. We all make mistakes, even me, and that is why I need you.

My favorite thing to do after worship is to visit with people (you have probably figured that out already as well). I especially enjoy it when people bring up the sermon; asking questions or sharing comments. And it is not always about the sermon. I once sat down at a table where two individuals were discussing the End Times and immediately, they included me in the conversation. I love that. Another time, some people were commenting on the sermon when one individual gave me a suggestion. I love that too. This person later called to apologize, afraid they had offended me. Let me tell you, if you have a concern about something I have said or did not say, please tell me. You are NOT going to offend me. If I have made a mistake, please tell me. I once got Rachel and Rebecca mixed up in a sermon. After worship, this lady, very hesitantly, corrected me and then apologized for doing so. No, do not apologize. I am a sinner and thus I make mistakes. If I need correction, then do it. It will benefit the WHOLE congregation. If you have a suggestion, then share it. It could very well benefit the WHOLE congregation.

As a fellow brother in Christ, I need your help. Actually, we all do. The apostle Paul is very clear that we are all sinners, but he is also equally clear that we are to be about building up the church, and the church is you and me. If a brother or sister in Christ is caught in a sin, then it behooves us to call that sin out, not to put them down, but to build them up through their repentance. If I am in error, then please tell me. Coming to me and saying, "*I do not like your preaching*" or "*Your preaching stinks*", does not help me. Rather, for example, "*You were talking too fast today, and I could not understand you*" is something I can work on, to the benefit of the WHOLE congregation. You get the point. And this also goes for all of your brothers and sisters in Christ.

If you care about me, each other, and the church, then you will not be silent. Say something. Let us build one another up in love. Let us build up the church so we can stand strong and firm on the Gospel of Jesus. And so I ask you (if you are not already doing so) to pray for me that I remain faithful. Pray for the church

and the Church. Let us continue building the church up, one person at a time.  
To God be all glory, through Christ our Lord, Amen.