

BUILDING UP THE LOCAL CHURCH

By Eliminating Negativism

II Timothy 4:2

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- Negative people are all around us and although they make for funny characters on sitcoms, they are a pain to deal with in real life.
- Let's face it; we are surrounded by negativity everyday.
 - Negative press
 - Negative stories
 - Negative attitudes and comments.

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- Often, it is hard for us to rise above the onslaught of negativity in order to be positive people.
- We have all had our less than appealing moments in this regard.
- Even the apostle Paul had moments of negative feelings.
 - Think about Acts 13:4,13 and 15:36-41 and how this relates to Acts 9:26-28. It got better in II Tim. 4:11.

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- *Negativism.....*

**CAN ZAP ONE OF THEIR ENTHUSIASM
AND DEDICATION TO CHRIST**

- Romans 14:13
- Eph. 4:29-32- Think about the word clamor.
- Instead of complaining about what someone does or does not do for the church, we could be constructive.

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- Part of our purpose as a church is to edify.
 - Rom. 15:1-2
 - II Thess. 5:11-15
 - I Cor. 14:12

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**HURTS FEELINGS, CREATES BARRIERS,
AND DESTROYS RELATIONSHIPS**

- We are supposed to love, support and be at peace.
 - I Cor. 13:4-7
 - II Thess. 5:11-15
 - Rom. 12:9, 10, 16-18

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MAKES US UNAPPEALING

- Internally
 - Negativity doesn't attract. We avoid folks like that.
 - Eph. 4:15-16
- Externally
 - Matt. 5:13-16