

Clarksville Church of Christ
 407 W Lewis & Clark Pkwy
 Clarksville, IN 47129-1649
 (812) 944-2305
www.clarksvillechurchofchrist.org

Sundays
 Bible Study..... 9:30 AM
 Worship.....10:30 AM
 Worship.....6:00 PM

Wednesdays
 Bible Study.....7:30 PM

Elders
 Stephen W. Nale.....812-948-9917
 Allen L. Morris.....812-967-4536

Deacons
 Jeffrey B. Hunt.....502-931-5766
 Elbert Metcalf.....812-246-5938
 Rondal O. Thompson Jr....812-944-8295
 Mark Maudlin.....502-523-0479

Editor
 Brian Anderson.....317-442-9507

Goals For 2021
Theme
 A Church with a Mind to Work
Attendance: Sunday Bible Study: 40;
Sunday AM: 50
Sunday PM: 40; Wednesday Bible Study: 30

Giving: Meet Our Yearly Budget

Invitations: 130

Every Member Committed To Daily Bible Reading

Every Member Committed To Daily Prayer

Every Member Committed To Be At Every Service

Support the Work in Vincennes, Indiana
Hold A Men's Training Class

Hold One Gospel Meeting

-Like us on Facebook-View us on YouTube at Clarksvillechurch

Brian Anderson is preaching today

We are now in week #29 of our Daily Bible Reading.

Prayer List
 Lynn Maudlin's father
 Rob Kelly in the passing of his Mom, Carrie Kelly
 Sharon Nale, Polly Ward
 Les & Novema Dunn
 Debby Spears (Roseann's sis)
 Sharon Thompson, Kay Thompson
 The Wards & Beth McFarland
 Dale Kahl, Brooke Thomas

Edification: Romans 14:19; Ephesians 4:16; Acts 20:32

Who Have You Invited To Services This week?

Lord's Supper Reading
 Isaiah 53:3-6

Scripture Reading
 AM: Acts 9:26-31
 PM: Deut. 18:15-18

Encouragement Tally
 Invites this month: 0
 Invites last month: 8
 Visitors YTD: 14

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The Clarksville Beacon

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Volume 33 Issue 29

Clarksville Church of Christ

July 18, 2021

What Edifies?

Welcome!
 If you're visiting with us today, we want you to feel welcome and we want you to feel like our honored guest! We also want you to know that all we're interested in here at the Clarksville Church of Christ is the Truth. Jesus said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32. The truth He's talking about is God's word. Jesus said, "Sanctify them by thy truth, Thy word is truth." John 17:17. Therefore we hope you'll appreciate that we'll give you book, chapter and verse from the Bible, the word of God, for everything that we say or do here today, so that everything that we do may bring glory unto God, I Pet. 4:11.

Intro: Our theme is a church with a mind to work. This month we're talking about Edification. My question I'd like for us to consider this morning is, "What Edifies?"

I. Peace

Rom. 14:19, Acts 9:31, Mt 5:9, Rom. 15:5, Jn 3:18, Eph. 4:3

II Worship

I Cor. 14:26, Heb. 10:24-25, Eph. 4:16, Col. 3:16, Eph. 5:19
 Ps 100:2

III. The Word of God

Acts 20:32, I Pet. 2:2, II Pet. 3:18, 2 Tim. 2:15, Ps 119:28

IV. Praying

Jude 1:20, I Thes. 5:17, Col. 4:2, Eph. 6:18, Phil. 4:6-7
 I Pet. 5:7, Mt 6:6; 7:7-11, Js 5:16

V. Being Spiritually Minded

Rom. 8:5-9, Gal. 6:7-8, Col. 3:1-2, Jn 10:10

VI Giving Thanks

Col. 2:7, I Cor. 14:17, I Chron. 16:34, Col. 3:15, 17
 I Thes. 5:18

Jesus Wishes To Be

Intro: In Matt. 11:28; 23:37, Jn 7:37; 12:32, Rev. 3:20, it is clear that Jesus wishes to have a relationship with you. Let's take a look this evening as some relationships that Jesus wishes to forge with each of us.

I. Your _____

Mt 1:21, I Tim. 1:15, Gal. 1:4, Titus 2:14, Heb 9:22, Jn 19:34, Rom. 6:3, Rev. 1:5, Acts 22:16, Ps 119:11, Rom. 6:23, Jn 10:10; 3:16, Acts 2:38; Acts 13:38-39

II. Your _____

Deut 18:15-18, Heb. 4:15, Jn 18:36, Mt 16:18, Mk 9:1, Col. 1:13, I Tim. 2:20, Lk 17:21

III. Your _____ (Lord)

Acts 20:28, Eph. 5:25, I Pet. 1:18-19, I Cor. 6:19-20

IV. Your _____

Jn 3:2; 8:31-32, Mt 11:28-30, Mt 28:19-20, Mk 16:15-16, Jn 6:45, Heb. 1:1-2, Jn 6:68; 12:48

V. Your _____

Jn 10:11, 27, I Pet. 5:4, Ps 23

VI. Your _____

Jn 1:4; 8:12, Col. 1:13, I Jn 1:7, Phil. 2:15, Mt. 5:14-16

VII. Your _____

Gal. 2:20, Lk 9:23-24, Col. 3:4, Rev. 3:20

Why Is Edification Important?

What is edification, and why is it so important in the lives of believers? The word used for "edification" in the New Testament is oikodomé, which translates literally as "the building of a house." The word appears in the King James Bible only about 20 times, and then only in the New Testament. It is translated into phrases such as "building up" in more modern translations. Interestingly, its usage is also limited to Paul's letters. The dictionary definition of edify is "to instruct and improve, especially in moral and religious knowledge." According to Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, the word indicates the promotion of "spiritual growth and development of character of believers, by teaching or by example, suggesting such spiritual progress as the result of patient labor."

Vine's definition captures the meaning rather well. Edification is more than just encouragement; it includes any activity that results in more Christlikeness, either in oneself or in another believer. Edification may be individual or corporate. Individually, one can edify oneself by participating in the various spiritual disciplines (Bible intake, private prayer, private worship, etc).

Generally, however, the concept of edification in the New Testament is applied to the corporate body (mutual edification). Mutual edification involves helping one another along the road to Christlikeness, and it requires the participation of all members of the church. Teaching and preaching improve our understanding of God; encouragement promotes conduct that develops Christlike character. When we exhort one another and hold one another accountable, we are prompted to engage in activities that promote godliness. Accountability means we lovingly check each other's spiritual progress. Christlike service ensures that the needs of the church are met, and true fellowship is the interaction we have with each other on a deeper spiritual level. The corporate nature of edification cannot be overemphasized. Without mutual edification, the church becomes a collection of spiritual weaklings, a perpetual nursery for spiritual infants, rather than a body (1 Corinthians 12:27) or a building (Ephesians 2:20-22).

Paul tells us in Ephesians 4:12 and repeatedly in 1 Corinthians 14:1-26 that edification is one of the reasons that spiritual gifts are given to believers. In 2 Corinthians, Paul states no fewer than three times that the "building up" of the church is the reason for his apostolic authority (10:8, 12:19, and 13:10). Paul's goal was to edify. In 1 Corinthians 10:23 and Ephesians 4:16, he states that the church must work to edify itself for the overall health of each member. Finally, each of us is commanded to engage in edification (Romans 14:19; 15:2; Ephesians 4:29; 1 Thessalonians 5:11).

The church exists in community. Throughout the New Testament, the language is rich with communal imagery. The church is described as Christ's flock, His body, and His building. None of these metaphors denote an individual entity. Paul expounds on this concept in 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, describing the interdependence of the parts of the human body and the necessity of each. He goes so far as to say that we're actually "members of one another" in Ephesians 4:25 (NKJV).

An analogy is instructive here. The Gothic arch was a very popular structure in medieval architecture. The primary advantage of the arch was its strength and stability, which it derived from the fact that each stone in the arch leaned on the one beside it. This system of mutual support enabled the construction of much larger structures than might otherwise have been built. The Gothic arch could be a symbol of the church. The very fact that we need one another gives the church its strength. And the minute we decide to stop leaning on one another, we fall.