

# EDIFICATION

## Introduction

- A. There is no worthier goal for a congregation than edification.
- B. “Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another” (**Rom. 14:19**).

## I. THE MEANING OF EDIFICATION

- A. To edify is to “build up” (an “edifice” is a “building,” something that has been “built”) — in regard to life in Christ, to edify is to *strengthen* someone spiritually, to add to their *spiritual maturity*.
- B. Paul took the responsibility of edification very seriously, even if it meant saying some things that were not pleasant to say or to hear - **Ac. 20:31**. Also Peter in **2 Pt. 1:12-15; 3:1,2; 17,18**.

## II. EPHESIANS 4:1-16 AS A PICTURE OF A GROWING CHURCH

- A. This passage is a beautiful portrait of edification at work in the local congregation.
- B. Edification should not be limited to the assemblies of the church, but without a doubt, it should be *one of the highest priorities* of our assemblies - **Hb. 10:24,25**.
- C. The desire to edify should govern not only *what* we do, but the *spirit* and *manner* in which we do it.

## III. EDIFICATION IS A GOOD STANDARD BY WHICH TO MEASURE EVERYTHING

- A. It is certainly a higher goal than what “pleases” or “entertains” us.
- B. It requires that we think of how our actions impact other people - **Rom. 15:2; 1 Cor. 14:26; Phil. 2:1-4**.
- C. It requires that we think on a higher plane than merely what is “legal” - **1 Cor. 10:23**.
  - 1. “Where does it say not to?” is one question.
  - 2. “What would be the most *helpful* thing to do?” is another — and much higher — question.
- D. It is always good to ask: what serves the “commonweal” ( the common good) of the Lord’s body? Cf. **1 Cor. 12:7**.
- E. We must have both the ability to GIVE edification and the humility to RECEIVE it. Cf. **Rom. 1:11,12**.

## Conclusion

- A. The edification that takes place within a congregation is not the sole responsibility of the preacher. We should be able to edify one another - **1 Thess. 5:11**. Cf. **Rom. 15:14**.
- B. As with everything else in the Lord’s work, we need to be constantly *upgrading* and *improving* our work of edification. **How can this church be more edifying: to its members? to visitors to our assemblies? to our study contacts?**

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