

Work Of The Church (VIII)

Edification and Schools

Edification

1 Co.14³⁹ Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues. ⁴⁰ Let all things be one decently and in order.

Edification

Ro.10¹⁴ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!” ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “LORD, who has believed our report?” ¹⁷ So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

I. Edification in NT

Edification in NT

Mt.24¹ He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock

Lk.4²⁹ ...rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff...

Lk.6⁴⁸ He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock...

Edification in NT

[Figurative uses]

Mt.16¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church ...

1 Pt.2⁵ ... 7

Acts 9³¹ Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.

Jd.²⁰ But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit

I. Edification in NT

II. Misconceptions About Church Growth

Misconceptions

Acts 8

Rv.3⁸ “I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.

Ep.4¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

I. Edification in NT

II. Misconceptions...

III. Means of Edification

Means of Edification

Acts 20³² “So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

Ro.14¹⁹ Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.

Ro.15² Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification

Means of Edification

1 Co.8¹ Now concerning things offered to idols:
We know that we all have knowledge.
Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies

1 Co.14¹ Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts,
but especially that you may prophesy. ² For he
who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men
but to God, for no one understands him;
however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.
³ But he who prophesies speaks edification and
exhortation and comfort to men. ⁴ He who
speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who
prophesies edifies the church. [Also (26 . . . 31)]

I. Figures Emphasize...Church

II. Why Are Figures Imp.?

III. Means of Edification

**IV. Do Not Burden Church
With Individual Duties**

Do not burden churches with individual duties “Good work”?

2 Tim.3¹⁶⁻¹⁷

Ac.9^{36...}

Ro.13¹⁻⁷

Do not burden churches with individual duties “Expedient”?

1 Co.6¹² All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any

1 Co.10²³ All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify

Confuses individual and church

1 Tim.5¹⁶

Mt.18¹⁵⁻¹⁷

Ac.5¹⁻³

1 Co.12¹⁴

Some works are right for individuals, wrong for church

Ac.18²⁶ So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

Tit.2²⁻⁴

1 Co.14³⁴ Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says. ³⁵ And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church.

Confuses individual and church

Ac.27³³ And as day was about to dawn, Paul implored them all to take food, saying, “Today is the fourteenth day you have waited and continued without food, and eaten nothing.

³⁴ Therefore I urge you to take nourishment, for this is for your survival, since not a hair will fall from the head of any of you.” ³⁵ And when he had said these things, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all; and when he had broken it he began to eat. ³⁶ Then they were all encouraged, and also took food themselves.

1 Co.11¹⁷ Now in giving these instructions I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse. ¹⁸ For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. ¹⁹ For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you. ²⁰ Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper. ²¹ For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk. ²² What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? . . .

1 Tim.4⁸

Ep.6⁴ And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Hb.12⁹ Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?

¹⁰ For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. ¹¹ Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

N. B. Hardeman (1/4)

“I have always believed that a church has the right to contribute to a school or an orphanage if it so desired. In all that I have written, there is no conflict on this matter. The right to contribute to one is the right to contribute to the other.”

N. B. Hardeman (2/4)

“Note the parallel:

(1) The school is a human institution; it has a board of directors; it teaches secular branches in connection with the Bible.

(2) An orphan home is a human institution; it has a board of directors; it teaches secular branches in connection with the Bible.

The same principle that permits one must also permit the other. They must stand or fall together.”

N. B. Hardeman (3/4)

“Assuming that the school does the work of the church (which is subject to discussion) then may I ask: if the church can do part of its work – caring for orphans – through a human institution, why can it not do another part of its work – teaching the Bible – through a human institution? These brethren failed to show why.”

N. B. Hardeman (4/4)

“According to the ‘ace writer’ the church sins in contributing to either... Why will these brethren support an orphanage and fight the schools? The possible answer is that there are too many of our best churches that support the orphan home, and these brethren are afraid to attach them” – Gospel Advocate, Oct.23, 1947, p.884.

Athens Clay Pullias (1/3)

Letter from DLC to churches, May, 1977 –

“The present condition of David Lipscomb College is excellent. Enrollment is near capacity in the college and at capacity in the high school and elementary school. The faculty is the strongest in Lipscomb’s history. In spite of rising costs, the 1976-77 budget for the fiscal year will be balanced for the thirty-third consecutive year.”

Athens Clay Pullias (2/3)

Letter from DLC to churches, May, 1977 –

“In a turbulent time of change and confusion, Lipscomb has maintained its spiritual, academic, and cultural integrity. The attached report discusses only the problems and the solutions to these problems. Please read it carefully and reflect upon the grave implications for the future of Christian education.”

Athens Clay Pullias (3/3)

Letter from DLC to churches, May, 1977 –

“The gifts, grants, and contributions made to Lipscomb by alumni, friends, congregations, and business corporations are a matter of life and death to the future of Lipscomb. Your financial support is of the utmost importance. I shall look forward to hearing from you.”

Athens Clay Pullias

Letter to Nashville Banner, March, 1977

“The suit, brought by Americans United for Separation of Church and State, noted in particular three schools whose presidents testified Monday and Tuesday in the Hearing. Of those schools, David Lipscomb College here has 35 students receiving \$41,150 in public money, according to Barber. Lipscomb’s President, Dr. Athens Clay Pullias, has testified that his school has no affiliation with the Church of Christ, although membership in that church is a condition of employment for Lipscomb’s faculty.”