

LESSON #27
"EDIFICATION"

TEXTS: Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Ephesians 4:11-16

INTRODUCTION

Edification comes from the Greek word "OIKODO'NIE" which means (a) the act of building; (b) the promotion of spiritual growth. What does the Bible mean when it says in Acts 2:42 they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship?

The church is God's edifying institution.

A PREACHER'S DREAM

A minister dreamed that he was the preacher of a congregation and there were 200 members of the group. At each service there was 200 present. Not only was the attendance consistent, but also the contribution usually ran about 25% over the budget. The singing was inspirational and the communion service was impressive. The elders spent a great deal of time praising the preacher. The preacher had a lot of nice things to say about the elders. The preacher was always asked to speak at lectureships on "How To Have All The Members Present At Every Service."

Each member was free the rest of the week and they were busy people. They took part in community activities, P.T.A., clubs, socials, etc. They never saw one another except at the church services. Time went on and they all died.

In the judgment, the Lord gathered the congregation together and asked, "What did you do to prove you loved one another?" They hung their heads and went away sorrowfully.

I Corinthians 12:12-27; Romans 14:7

We are the Lord's. There can be no healthy Christian life in isolation. There can be no "you go your way, I'll go mine."

We have responsibilities to God, Christ, the Church and to each other. When one person weeps, we all weep; when one rejoices, we must all rejoice." It is a spiritual partnership that links all together who has been baptized into Christ into a great fellowship or brotherhood.

I Corinthians 3:9; Ephesians 4-11-16

Living for others is the greatest secret of happiness. Many are nervous wrecks because they think of themselves all the time.

WHAT ARE SOME OF OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARD OTHER CHRISTIANS?

- 1. I must by love serve others. Galatians 5:13**
- 2. I must practice the Golden Rule. Matthew 7:12**
- 3. I must worship with other members. Hebrews 10:25**
- 4. I must learn to work with others. I Corinthians 3:5-8**
- 5. I must learn to exhort and encourage. Hebrews 13:3**
- 6. I must strive to be a good example. I Timothy 4:12**
- 7. I must seek to make the church a happy place of love and harmony in which others can be Christians and more easily go to heaven. Acts 20:32**

All of these things and many more can only help to build up the whole church and each soul in it.

AVENUES OF EDIFICATION

- 1. Pulpit**
- 2. Classroom**
- 3. Individual efforts**