

## Edify – Pt 1 Excel to the edifying of each other

This is our first study on the word “edify” in the scriptures. The word occurs eleven times. We first establish three points– (1) We are to do all things for the edifying of others, (2) he that prophesies speaks unto men to edification and exhortation, and (3) God gave pastors and teachers for the edifying of the body of Christ.

Our three points established from the scriptures –

### 1. We are to do all things for the edifying of others

“Again, think ye that we excuse ourselves unto you? we speak before God in Christ: but we do all things, dearly beloved, for your edifying” (2 Cor.12: 19).

### 2. He that prophesies speaks unto men to edification and exhortation

“But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. [4] He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church. [5] I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying” (1 Cor.14:3–5).

### 3. God gave pastors & teachers for the edifying of the body of Christ.

“But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. [11] And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; [12] For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Eph.4: 7,11, 12).

#### Illustration

If a parent desires his children to be strong adults they raise their children by – line upon line building them up, they build their self esteem, they encourage and not discourage. When a manager desires to build a strong team to meet the needs of his customers he does so by building them up. When Paul was building the early church he said – “For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power...shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and in the spirit of meekness?” (1 Cor.4:20, 21).

Questions to think about.

How did Paul build the early church?

Answers from the scriptures

\* His power to lead and build the early church was given to him by the Lord for edification – “For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction...” (2 Cor.10:8).

\* He did so in truth and love that the brethren may grow

Ephesians 4:12,15 “For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: [15] But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

\* He excelled, and encouraged other leaders in the church to excel in the use of edification of others– 1 Corinthians 14:12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

When you build others up, you are a stronger team, when you knock them down, chip away at their self esteem you destroy the team. We are all required to build each other up, to edify one another in all things, to excel at edifying.

Is edifying one of your strengths? Stay with me on this series and teachings and learn not just the theory but be equipped to put into practice the skill to edify each other to build up the body of Christ, to the glory of God! Amen!