

Edify Pt 2 We edify by speaking truth in love

This is our second & final teaching on the word “edify” in the scriptures. In our previous study we established 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. In this teaching identify an additional three points – (1) Pastors & teachers edify the body **by** speaking the truth in love, (2) we edify the body **by** speaking words that minister grace unto the hearers, and (3) we edify the body **through** charity.

Our three points established from the scriptures –

1. Pastors & teachers edify the body **by** speaking the truth in love

“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: [14] That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; [15] But speaking the truth in love...” (Eph.4: 13–15).

2. We edify the body **by** speaking words that minister grace unto the hearers.

“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers” (Eph.4: 29).

3. We edify the body **through** charity.

“Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth” (1 Cor.8: 1).

Illustration

During my time at Active I worked alongside a man that would often speak harshly, to myself, my team and to his wife. He response when challenged as to why did he not focus on speaking words that build up others rather than destroying them – he would answer – I am only speaking the truth. But his wife looked so down-trodden.

Questions to think about.

How do we build, how do we edify in love?

Answers from the scriptures

* Precept upon precept – line upon line, here a little, and there a little – Is.28: 10
“For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:...”

* In truth, and on our foundation which is Jesus Christ – 1Cor 3:11 – “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ”.

* Build no other foundations – “Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble” (1 Cor.3: 12).

* And let our words minister grace unto the hearers – Eph.4: 29– “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers”.

If you have nothing nice to say to your brethren, then say nothing until you have prayed. If your words are harsh and pull down or destroy, albeit they are truth, keep them to yourself. Love without truth will not edify, and truth without love will not build on the foundation that was laid for us – which is Christ, but will only destroy – and that is the work of Satan, not the fruit of the Spirit of God. Edify in truth and love and you will show charity and build on the foundation which is Christ.