



From Where I Sit . . .

“EDIFICATION”

God’s Family, the church, is described in **1 Tim. 3:15** as the **“house of God . . . the pillar and ground of truth.”** That household or family of God is to be built up in the most Holy faith. To have a strong physical house, it has to be built up. To have a strong household or family, it too has to be strengthened and built up. God’s family needs this upbuilding.

The Bible word for this is **“EDIFICATION.”** It’s from a Greek word that has as its root word the concept of “A building – a dwelling.” The specific word, **oikdome**, carries the significance of “building up.” Thus the English word **edify** and **edification** come from that origin. Our word **edifice**, referring to a physical building, comes from the same root word.

Anything that we do to build up the house or household of God can be termed as edification. It was Paul’s prayer in **Col 2:6-7** that **“As ye have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.”** This is equivalent to saying “Rooted and edified.”

Thus, building up the house of God becomes a primary function of both elders, ministers, deacons, teachers, and all of God’s family. It was a significant part of the work of the church in the first century: **Acts 9:31**, **“Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.”**

Notice how much of our Christian experience edification effects. It was a major focus of Paul’s charge to the churches. Consider his writing to the church at Corinth, **1 Cor 8:1**, **“Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.”** Thus, edification is the apparent end result when we manifest the right spirit to one another. Knowledge can cause one to exercise personal rights that would harm someone else, but charity considers their lack of understanding and strives to build them up instead. We should never use our knowledge in a way that beats someone else down, but with patience seeks to lift them up.

Christians should strive to grow in the ability to help the whole church with whatever talent God has blessed us. We are, in fact, our brother’s keeper. Can you imagine the impact on a local congregation if every member were making every decision in his life based on whether it is right with God and whether it would help the brotherhood. **1 Cor 14:12** **“Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.”**

Paul’s summary statement on the matter of church relationships and edification comes in **1 Cor 14:26**, **“How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.”**

. . . . Terry Broome