

Edifying the Body in Love

How Church Builds Up the Doctrine in You

“From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.” – Ephesians 4:16

1. Study → Prayer → Church = Life in Christ

- a. God provides the tools we need to live up to the vocation wherewith we are called
 - i. Salvation and a new life in Christ by grace through faith alone
 - ii. His inspired and perfectly preserved words to trust, study, and live by
 - iii. His Spirit in us so we can understand spiritual truth & communicate w/ Him
 - iv. His church for perfecting us, doing ministry work, and building up the Body
- b. Each tool has a unique function, and God intends for believers to utilize all of them

2. Church: What Are We Talking About?

- a. One spiritual body, the body of Christ (who is the head)–*Eph 4:4, 1:22-23; 1Cor 12:13*
- b. The many individual, saved members – *1Cor 12:12, 19-20 & 27, 6:19-20; Rom 12:5*
- c. Individual members coming together to do God’s work for and with one another
 - i. No shortage of Pauline evidence for the local church – *Rom 12:10, 12:16, 16:1, 16:4-5, 16:16; 1Cor 4:17, 7:17, 16:1, 16:19-20; 2Cor 8:1, 8:18-19, 8:23-24, 11:8, 11:28, 13:11-12; Gal 1:2, Phi 4:15; Col 4:15-16, 2Thes 1:4, Phm 1:2, et al...*
 - ii. Just because it’s often done wrongly doesn’t mean it shouldn’t be done at all!
- d. A local assembly of like-minded believers is a necessity for *Eph 4:15-16 & 1Tim 3:15*

3. Edification: A Core Function of the Church Today

- a. Def. = to build up for one’s benefit; to improve upon, specially in one’s spiritual understanding or faith – *2Cor 10:8, 1Cor 10:23, Eph 2:21; Rom 15:2*
- b. One of the functions of the gifts in the early church – *Eph 4:12*
- c. It continues still today – *Eph 4:16, 1Thes 5:11, Rom 14:19, 2Cor 12:19, 1Cor 14:26*
- d. Edifying others in the church is more important than self-edification – *1Cor 14:4-17*

4. How Churches Edify (or “What bible studies, YouTube, & Facebook are NOT good for”)

- a. Taking a stand as the pillar and ground of the truth – *1Tim 1:3, 3:15, 6:3-5; Eph 4:15*
- b. Purifying the doctrine/Having unity of the faith – *Eph 4:3-4, 4:13; Rom 12:16, 15:5-6*
- c. Preaching, admonishing, rebuking, etc. – *Rom 15:14, 1Cor 4:17, Col 3:16, Titus 2:15*
- d. Leadership – *1Tim 3:5, 1Thes 5:12-13, Titus 1:5*
- e. Providing opportunities to serve – *Gal 5:13, 6:10; Rom 16:1, 12:7-8, 12:13*
- f. Communication & Restoration – *Gal 6:1-2, 6:6; Eph 4:32; Col 3:9 & 13*
- g. Loving and caring for one another – *1Tim 5:16, 1Cor 12:25-26, 16:20; Rom 12:4-16, Eph 4:2, 5:21; 1Thes 3:12, 4:9, 4:18, 5:11*
- h. Creating faithful workmen for the Lord – *2Tim 2:2, 1Cor 4:1-2, Eph 4:16*