

BIBLE EDIFICATION (Romans 14:19)

What does 'edification' mean? Some, even most would say that to edify means to encourage, to make someone feel better, to build up, or to help give someone a better attitude. **WRONG!!** Bible edification means: To enlighten, to improve the morals or spiritual knowledge of others in a loving way.

HOW TO EDIFY

I Thessalonians 5:11 In closing out his first letter to the church at Thessalonica Paul exhorted them to continue to edify each other. Check out **I Th. 1:2-8** to see how they edified other believers.

II Corinthians 12:19 In Paul's concern for this carnal church, he reminds them that himself and those that minister with him have no selfish ambition in their ministry but want only to edify believers.

I Corinthians 10:23 In speaking both of his Christian liberty and his Christian responsibility Paul tells us that sometimes when something is absolutely right, sometimes it is spiritually absolutely wrong.

Romans 14:13-16 In this letter to the church at Rome Paul again covers the issue of what we know to be alright spiritually for ourselves but our love and concern for other believers takes president.

I Corinthians 14:12 A good lesson from Paul to the Corinthians regarding spiritual gifts. Some would like what others have, some would like to flaunt their gift. Spiritual gifts are for edifying others.

Ephesians 4:11-16 Paul enlightens us in these verses regarding the subject of edifying the body of Christ. The content of these few verses gives us exactly what biblical edifying is.

(A) Vs. 12 tells us that God gave the church Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers for the edifying of the body of Christ.

(B) Vs. 13 tells us that this instruction and teaching is for imparting the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

(C) Vs. 15 tells us that by speaking in love people are helped to grow up (mature) in Christ.

(D) Vs. 16 tells us that every part of the body is suppose to help all the others in love and edification.

I Corinthians 8:1 Knowledge alone does not edify the believer. Without love and knowledge a teacher or a pastor does not help or edify, they only desire to be puffed up with themselves.

WHO IS TO EDIFY

Ephesians 4:12; II Timothy 4:1-5 There is little doubt that a majority of responsibility to edify the body of Christ by teaching, preaching and exhorting in love rests on the senior pastor of the church.

II Timothy 2:2 The church also has a responsibility to the pastor to produce additional leaders who are mature in the Lord and are able to preach and teach others in love and edification.

Galatians 4:9 This verse and many others show that the majority of church members are in need of not only faithful teaching but faithful fellowship in order to help believers grow and stay faithful.

Acts 20:17, 25-31 Paul makes it clear that the elder (mature) members of the church are responsible to teach (feed) the church of God and watch out for their safety and warn them of the enemy.

Titus 2:1-10 All local congregations of believers must have a program of edification in order to help teach godliness to the upcoming generation of young believers.

Acts 6:1-7 The bible teaches us that the leaders of the local church, whether they are called deacons, trustees or elders, they have the responsibility to take care of God's people whatever the need may be.

I Timothy 3:8-13 Paul lists the qualifications of preachers and then qualifications of the deacons. It is a grave responsibility to be an elder, a deacon, a trustee. The people of the local New Testament church must be able to count on the leaders in the church to help guide them, help them in their needs, teach them bible and do it all with a loving attitude. In other words, they must be able to edify the believers within the local church.

