

## **EDIFY ONE ANOTHER** **(1 Thessalonians 5:9-11)**

### **1. The meaning of the word.**

- a. This word edify is a great word when we come to understand it.
- b. This word literally means “to build a house”.
  - i. It had to do with the erecting of a structure.
  - ii. Putting the material together to create a building.
- c. It came to carry idea of building up anything in order to strengthen it or establish it on a good foundation.
- d. When it is used in this sense, Thayer says “to promote growth in Christian wisdom, affection, grace, virtue, holiness, blessedness”.
- e. This particular Greek word and another one that is considered a close family member are found 58 times in the New Testament.
  - i. The other word is translated more often with some form of edify (edification, edifying, etc).
  - ii. They both are translated by the term build in various ways (built, will build, building, etc.).
- f. Our word in 1 Thessalonians 5:11 is always a social word.
  - i. By that is meant that it is always used in regard to the mutual improvement of members of the Lord’s church.
  - ii. It carries the meaning of growth for the whole body of Christ.
- g. So when we see this word edify, or some form of it, we need to understand it means building up or strengthening one another or the whole body of Christ.

### **2. The motive to edify our brethren.**

- a. Besides it being a command to edify one another, which alone ought to motivate us, why should we seek to build up or strengthen each other?
- b. 1 Corinthians 8:1 gives us the answer: love.
  - i. We love one another, which is the basis for every one of these one another commands we’ve been studying.
  - ii. We are seeking the highest good for our brethren and in this case, their highest good is being strong.
- c. We often say or hear that the congregation is only as strong as her weakest member, like a chain is only as strong as its weakest link.
  - i. If we love our brethren, we will seek to build up our weaker members.
  - ii. We want them to be able to stand in the face of temptation and not be overcome.
  - iii. We want them to be able withstand false teaching and not succumb to it.
  - iv. We want the congregation to be stronger, which means each member needs to be stronger.
- d. Remember what we said about this word: it is a social word which means we are to be involved in each others lives.
- e. We want to be involved in each others lives because we love each other.
- f. Love requires something of us that we don’t generally like to do and that is we give up what we like so others are built up (Romans 15:1-2).
  - i. We may have the right to do something, but if it offends a brother in Christ, we won’t do it.

- ii. A brother may be doing something we don't like or we wouldn't do, but if it's not sinful we won't get upset with him for doing it.
- iii. We allow these things to go on or stop doing something we can do because we love our brethren
- g. We can never compromise the doctrine of Christ, but we can love each other enough to put up with some things, which goes back to the first sermon in this series of forbearing one another.
- h. An anonymous poet wrote, "Lord, teach us the secret of loving, The love You are asking today; Then help us to love one another; For this we most earnestly pray."
- i. It's difficult at times, but we are seeking to build up each other so we do this because we love our brethren.
- j. If there is something we don't like but it's not sinful we have to learn to put up with it out of love.
- k. Love is the motivating factor for edifying one another.

### **3. The means to edify one another.**

- a. God has given us the command to edify one another and the means by which we can carry out this command.
  - i. One of the great things about God is that He has never given a command without giving us the material we need to fulfill it.
  - ii. He loves us so He wants to make sure we have the tools we need to do what He says.
- b. The main means by which we edify our brethren is God's word (Acts 20:32).
  - i. In this verse, the phrase "to build you up" is from the same Greek word translated edify in 1 Thessalonians 5:11.
  - ii. This great verse literally says, "And now brethren, I set you before (meaning of commend) God and the word of His grace which has the capacity or power (meaning of able) to build you up..."
- c. God's word builds up, strengthens, edifies the Christian.
  - i. You and I are to use God's word to build up one another.
  - ii. Don't come with, "Well I think..."
  - iii. Come with "Notice what this scripture says."
  - iv. Don't come with, "Well I don't like..."
  - v. Come with, "Notice what this scripture says."
  - vi. It does not matter what we think or what we like or don't like, it only matters what God's word teaches.
- d. The teaching of the Bible is the only means by which the Christian can be edified.
- e. We see that God's word is the means by which we edify one another, but how do we put God's word to use to do so?
- f. We worship together.
  - i. Hebrews 10:24-25 teaches this idea.
  - ii. Notice what Paul said about the worship service to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 14:26).
  - iii. The purpose of worship is to glorify God but also that each Christian is edified (1 Corinthians 14:12).
  - iv. We learn how to worship God through study of the scriptures that edifies or builds us up.

- v. Our singing, praying, preaching, giving, and partaking of the Lord's Supper all have the potential and power to make us stronger and if we fail to put in our part of the effort for worship, we are failing to strengthen our brethren.
- g. Bible classes and preaching edify us (Acts 20:32; Acts 20:7).
- h. Singing is for edification since we use it to teach and admonish one another (Colossians 3:16).
- i. Notice Ephesians 4:11-16.
  - i. God's word is to be used to edify the church.
  - ii. We all supply something to the edifying of the body.
  - iii. This edifying is to be done out of love (vs. 16).
- j. We need to make sure that we are using our speech to edify, not to harm (Ephesians 4:29-32).
  - i. This text tells us that when we use our speech to harm others, we are grieving the Holy Spirit.
  - ii. We are to remove anger and hostility.
  - iii. We are to be kind instead and willing to forgive one another.
- k. You and I are here to help one another get to heaven and we do that by edifying one another.
  - i. This does not mean we don't confront error or address problems in the lives of brethren.
  - ii. It does mean we do it with love and not anger.
  - iii. It does mean we have scripture to back up that which we are saying.
- l. The means by which we edify each other are found only in God's word.

#### **4. The mark of edification.**

- a. How do we know when a brother is in need of edifying or how do we know if we've been edified?
  - i. If we see a family member who is down in some area or weak in some area we seek to build them up.
  - ii. How do we know if we've accomplished the task?
  - iii. If we have been taught something, how do we know if we've been truly edified?
- b. The answer is found back in Ephesians 4:12-16, especially verse 15.
  - i. Listen to how the ESV states this verse: "Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every one into him who is the head, into Christ".
  - ii. We become more Christ-like is the answer.
- c. The more we are edified by God's word the more we bear the mark of being Christ-like.
- d. If you are helping a brother out and you see them act more like Christ, then you know you have edified that brother.
- e. If you are more Christ-like and you know that through your reflection on your speech or actions being like Christ, then you know you've been edified.
- f. This job of edification is not solely one edifying another though.
  - i. Notice Jude 20.
  - ii. "Building up yourselves".
  - iii. We need to edify ourselves through a study of the most holy faith.
- g. We know we are edified or edifying others when we and they bear the mark of being more Christ-like.

