

## “EDIFICATION”

The work of the church in preparing people for heaven involves edifying and edification. Paul said, “...*Let all things be done unto edifying*” (1 Corinthians 14:26). What does edification mean? Who should be involved in the work of edification? Who needs to be edified? How is the church to carry out the work of edification?

### WHAT DOES EDIFICATION MEAN?

The word (oikodome) which is translated edification is found 18 times in the New Testament. This word means “to build, literally the act of building, building as a process and, hence also that which is built, the building. New Testament meanings: a building, edifice (Matthew 24:1; Mark 13:1,2; cf. 1 Corinthians 3:9; 2 Corinthians 5:1; Ephesians 2:21); edification, spiritual profit or advancement (Romans 14:19; 15:2; 1 Corinthians 14:3,4; 2 Corinthians 13:10).” This word is translated “edification” four times (Romans 15:2; 1 Corinthians 14:3; 2 Corinthians 10:8; 13:10), “edifying” seven times (1 Corinthians 14:5,12,26; 2 Corinthians 12:19; Ephesians 4:12,16,29), “building” six times (Matthew 24:1; Mark 13:1,2; 1 Corinthians 3:9; 2 Corinthians 5:1; Ephesians 2:21), “wherewith (one) may edify” (Romans 14:19).

Another word (oikodomeo) which is translated edify is found thirty-nine times in the New Testament. This word means “to build a house, tower, town, etc. (Matthew 7:24,26); to build in a spiritual sense, as the Church (Matthew 16:18); to profit spiritually, to edify (1 Corinthians 8:1; 14:4,17).” This word is translated “edify” seven times (Acts 9:31; 1 Corinthians 8:1; 10:23; 14:4,17; 1 Thessalonians 5:11), “build” twenty-four times, “builder” five times, “build up” (1 Peter 2:5), “in building” (John 2:20), and “embolden” (1 Corinthians 8:10). Another word (oikodomia) which is translated edifying is found only one time in the New Testament and means the “act of

building...the increase which God desires in faith.” *“Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do”* (1 Timothy 1:4). Edification is an essential work of the church. Christian growth is a theme that runs throughout the New Testament (1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18). Christians are warned to be sober, steadfast, and strong. *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world”* (1 Peter 5:8,9). *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might”* (Ephesians 6:10). *“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord”* (1 Corinthians 15:58). Edification begins with education, study. Paul said, *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”* (2 Timothy 2:15).

### WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE WORK OF EDIFICATION?

Every member must be involved in edification (Hebrews 12:10-13; Ephesians 4:16). If one member fails to do his part the whole body suffers (1 Corinthians 12:25-28). Notice that unified effort equals edification of the whole body. Elders are exhorted to be involved in edification (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:3; Hebrews 13:17). Preachers are commanded to be involved in edification (2 Timothy 4:2).

### WHO NEEDS TO BE EDIFIED?

Everyone needs to be edified. New converts need to be edified. Young people need to be edified (2 Timothy 2:22). Widows need to be edified. Mature Christians need to be edified. Elijah, the prophet, was known for his iron will and stern resolution (1 Kings 18). Yet, because of the burden of

his task, he sat in discouragement beneath a Juniper tree (1 Kings 19:1-4). The apostle Paul requested the prayers of the church so that he might speak the Word boldly (Ephesians 6:20). The spiritually weak and wayward need to be edified (1 Thessalonians 5:14). Elders, deacons, preachers and teachers need to be edified (Romans 13:7; 1 Thessalonians 5:11-13).

### HOW IS THE CHURCH TO CARRY OUT THE WORK OF EDIFICATION?

The local congregation is organized for edification. The local congregation should be edified by worshiping together. *“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching”* (Hebrews 10:24,25). The local church should be edified by studying together. *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”* (2 Tim. 2:15). The local church should be edified by practicing discipline. Sometimes it is necessary to *“...root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down”* in order to build and plant (Jeremiah 1:10). The apostle Paul warned that *“a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump”* (1 Corinthians 5:6). The damaging influence of sin must be purged out of the local congregation. *“Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us”* (1 Corinthians 5:7). One must remember that church discipline is an act of love, carried out for the purpose of saving the sinner’s soul and the purification of the church.

**Larry Powers** *from The Encourager*

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## **BIRTHDAYS**

Debbie Schleif, 07-14; Abby Stillwell, 07-17;  
Erin Stillwell, 07-17.

## **ILL**

**Sunday:** Millie Robertson (PM).

**Wednesday:** Millie Robertson.

Marion Stone is in the Hoeger House for rehabilitation.

**Those battling cancer:** Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

## **HOME BOUND**

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Barbara James' Aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at the Sweet Life of Rosehill in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

## **OUT OF TOWN**

Chris Edwards was away on business in Chicago last week. The Thomas, Carter and Marcum families were vacationing in Colorado last week.

## **MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING**

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held this Sunday, July 12 following our AM worship.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Sunday AM, 40; Sunday PM, 29; Wednesday PM, 31.

*Be here each night for our...*

# **Family Bible Studies**

**"Fishing With The Master"**

**July 27 – 31, 2009**

**7 – 9 p.m. each evening**

## **Those To Serve**

**July 12, 2009**

**BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Nemechek**

### **MORNING WORSHIP**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Joel Nelson**  
**SONG LEADER..... George Thomas**  
**OPENING PRAYER ..... Steve Brown**  
**PRESIDE..... Jared Nelson**  
**ASSIST..... Jeff Nemechek**  
**ASSIST..... John James**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... John Cody Carter**

### **EVENING WORSHIP**

**OPENING PRAYER ..... Trent Thrasher**  
**CLOSING PRAYER..... John Dodson**  
**LORD'S SUPPER..... Jared Nelson**

### **WEDNESDAY 15th**

**SONG LEADER..... Trent Thrasher**  
**INVITATION ..... Ted Thrasher**

## **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

### **Sunday**

Bible Study ..... 9:30 AM  
Morning Worship ..... 10:30 AM  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### **Wednesday**

Ladies Bible Study ..... 10:00 AM  
Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

**Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher**

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