



## The Nature of Biblical Edification

What does it mean to be edified? Without doing a scientific survey, my guess is that most people would say that being edified means to be encouraged, to make to feel better, or to have a more positive attitude. So, I did some searching on the Internet to see if my guess was accurate or not. I found that the majority of the time, the word is used in the sense of encourage or be made to feel better. However, when I looked into an English dictionary, I found the following definition. "Edify: enlighten, to improve the morals or knowledge of somebody." Another dictionary said this. "Edify: to instruct or improve spiritually." Does this surprise you? Do you think of being instructed as edification? Do you think of gaining new knowledge when you are edified?

In going back to the Greek language and looking at the word, we find that it comes from a word that means to build, erect, or set up one thing or another. The word was originally used to describe the founding and construction of a house. So it literally meant to build a place of dwelling out of construction materials. The original sense of the word can still be found in our language today in the word edifice, a building. However, in the New Testament, the word is often used metaphorically of imparting wisdom to another person. That is, instructing another person with words that can be understood and applied to life. While today the word may be used in the sense of encourage or make someone to feel good (that is, from a purely emotional point of view), that is generally not the way that it was used within the New Testament.

One of the reasons I wanted to think about the proper way this word was employed in the New Testament, is that there are some today who claim to do things in worship to God on the

grounds that those things are edifying. That is, I have heard people say that the use of instrumental music within the worship is edifying, and so it must be a good thing. Could we justify instrumental music (or anything else, for that matter) based upon the idea that we are emotionally moved or stirred? Could we justify adding an additional element to God's worship under the banner of "edification?" Is this biblical edification?

There is no doubt that the Bible clearly teaches us to follow after things that edify. Romans 14:19 states, "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may **edify** another." 1 Thessalonians 5:11 states, "Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and **edify** one another, even as also ye do." And in 2 Corinthians 12:19, Paul says "...we do all things for your **edifying**." However, we also read that not everything that is lawful is something that edifies. Paul writes in 1 Cor.10:23, "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things **edify** not." This leads us to ask the question: what are the kinds of things that truly do edify?

In 1 Corinthians 14, Paul deals with the problem of the Christians at Corinth speaking in unknown tongues without the presence of an interpreter. In contrast to the one who speaks in an unknown tongue, Paul states in verse 3, "But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort." In essence Paul is saying that the unknown tongue does not edify, but prophesy does edify. He reiterates these thoughts in verses 5 and 12, and then in verse 17 he states, "For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is **not edified**." The point that I am bringing out here is that in order for something to edify, it must have meaning. Not in the sense of emotion or feeling, but in the sense of the understanding of the

## The Nature of Biblical Edification (cont.)

intellect. That is, if something is not intelligible or comprehensible by the intellect, then it cannot edify. True edification can only come through a situation where knowledge and instruction is imparted with the attitude of love.

Let us note Ephesians 4:11-16. These verses speak concerning the subject of edification of the body of Christ. Verse 12 tells us that one reason God gave the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers was for the edifying of the body of Christ. Each of these offices are special in that God uses them to instruct and teach. Verse 13 tells us that this instruction and teaching has as its object, imparting the knowledge of Christ. Verse 15 says it is about speaking the truth in love. One cannot be edified without love (1 Corinthians 8:1). Verse 16 reiterates that instruction and teaching are for the purpose of edifying. Truth, knowledge, instruction, and love are all things that are associated with edifying. We learn then, that edification comes through the avenue of words when conjoined with the motivation of love on the part of the one edifying. Biblical edification inherently involves communication. Wordless expressions of emotion, feeling, or any other element which produces an incomprehensible sound cannot edify. Speaking the truth in love, however

results in godly edifying (1 Timothy 1:4).

Playing an instrument of music is something that is aesthetically beautiful, stirring, and uplifting, but it cannot edify; it cannot impart knowledge; it cannot instruct. Only the use of verbal communication when combined with spiritual words and an attitude of love can accomplish this task. Knowledge alone does not accomplish this task. Knowledge separated from love does not edify, it merely puffs up (1 Corinthians 8:1). However, biblical edification is the loving impartation of spiritual instruction designed to build up the wisdom, knowledge, and understanding of the student to the motivation of accomplishing the work of the kingdom.

Kevin Cauley

According to the grace  
of God which is given  
unto me, as a wise master  
builder, I have laid  
the foundation, and another  
buildeth thereon.  
But let every man take  
heed how he buildeth  
thereupon. (1 Corinthians 3:10)

## Too Busy

Too busy to read the Bible,  
Too busy to wait and pray;  
Too busy to speak out kindly  
To someone along the way.

Too busy with cares and struggles  
To think of the life to come,  
Too busy building mansions,  
To plan for the heavenly home.

Too busy to help a brother,  
Who faces the winter's blast;  
Too busy to share the burdens  
When self in the balance is cast.

Too busy for all that is holy  
On earth beneath the sky,  
Too busy to serve the Master,  
But not too busy to die.

--*Gospel Digest*, March, 1956

Author Unknown

## Sermons and Study Topics

Week of 2/22/04

Morning .....	Music in the Church—Why It Must Be Vocal (2)
Scripture .....	Hebrews 2:12
Evening .....	The Golden Rule
Scripture .....	Matthew 7:12
Sunday Morning Bible Study .....	The Book of Hebrews
Wednesday Evening Bible Study .....	Our Passion

## Weekly Record

Week of 02/15/04

Sunday Class .....	60
Sunday A.M. ....	72
Sunday P.M. ....	62
Wednesday .....	51
Contribution .....	\$1663.22
Budget .....	\$1760.00

## Things God Won't Ask

Those of you who receive e-mail on a regular basis may have seen the following lines regarding what "God won't ask." While we are certainly not claiming to know what God will or will not ask come the day of judgment, the lines are instructive in that they cause us to focus upon the spiritual, not the material. With this in mind, the following lines should be considered.

- God won't ask what kind of car you drove, He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.
- God won't ask the square footage of your house, He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.
- God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet, He'll ask

how many you helped to clothe.

- God won't ask what your highest salary was, He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.
- God won't ask what your job title was, He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.
- God won't ask how many friends you had, He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.
- God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived, He'll ask how you treated your neighbors.
- God won't ask about the color of your skin, He'll ask about the content of your character.
- God won't ask why it took you so long to seek and to find salvation, but once you do, He'll lovingly

take you to your mansion in heaven, and not to the gates of hell.

Now, to these thoughts we may add the following:

- God won't ask how big the church was where you attended, He'll ask how well you served where you attended.
- God won't ask what heights of emotion you felt during worship, He'll ask the depth of commitment you made to His Son.
- God won't ask how much money you put in the plate each week, He'll ask whether you gave your life entirely to Him.
- God won't ask whether you told the preacher his sermon was good, He'll ask whether the message within it changed your life.

*E-Mail via Ken and Debbie Smith*

## Kevin's Korner

I have not had as busy of a week as I have had this week in quite some time. Monday and Tuesday were teacher service days and so the kids were out of school. We took them up to Branson to see a movie, and then to Springfield to visit Bass Pro. We stopped at Lamberts on the way up and we really thought that was something. They throw their rolls there. Every time Charlie would try to catch one, he would drop it. Then, he finally caught one and it was too hot, so he dropped it. It was comical, to say the least. We did have a good day, though.

Tuesday, we had our den meeting for the cub scouts and we found out that Larry and Susan Elliott were going to become our new den leaders. I would certainly like to commend them for their willingness to do this. I was

a den leader last year and it was a goodly amount of work. I'm glad they are going to do this. We should each encourage them in this regard.

Several have been in and out of the building to paint this week. We do appreciate all of their efforts. Also, I don't think I would be out of line to say that the Stevens and the Windles are really doing a great job at coordinating the effort to have our new carpet put down in our fellowship area. Thank you!

Thursday, was the sweetheart's banquet in Joplin. Mary Lynn and I went and enjoyed ourselves. The emphasis of the evening was upon how much we appreciate our ladies in the support they give us in our work. The church would be an unbearable place without them. Special thanks to Katie Williams for watching the kids while we were out.

This past Friday evening was the an-

nual blue and gold banquet for the Cub Scouts. Austin Cauley and Charles Elliott received their Wolf Cub Badges, as well as a gold and silver arrows for completing the requirements in our wolf book. This means that next year they will move up to work on the Bear Cub Badge. Charlie will also start Cub Scouts next year too. He is really looking forward to this.

### **Elders:**

Clay Bozarth, Leon Duncan,  
Bruce Foster, Bill Fort, Glenn  
Quigley

### **Deacons:**

Ken Smith, Brent Stevens,  
Rusty Windle.

### **Preacher:**

Kevin Cauley... 870-423-6707

# News, Notes, and 'Nouncements

- We are truly thankful to God for the wonderful new Lord's day that he has given us today to worship him in Spirit and in Truth!
- Let us remain constant in prayer for the following individuals: Beth's friend Ron, Joann Bragg's brother, Michael Collins, Brian Guess, Chris Pinkley.
- Glenn Quigley had to have two surgeries this past week. He is doing well and recovering.
- Don't forget our shut ins: Curtis and Opal Hull, Edith Mischler, Mary Patterson, Art Roberts
- There is a brief VBS meeting scheduled for tonight after evening worship.
- If you would like to order a Bible, please let Kevin know today as an order is being placed this week.
- If you have signed the petition that was announced several weeks ago to protect the sanctity of marriage and wish to have Kevin mail it in, please turn it in today.
- Next Sunday we have our 5th Sunday singing at the nursing home. I hope you have made your plans to attend. Please note that at the request of the nursing home, the singing will now be in the dining area instead of the activity room.
- The pantry item for this week is Canned Chicken.



## Welcome!

To the Berryville church of Christ.

### Family Times for Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class:..... 9:30 AM  
 Sunday Morning Worship: ..... 10:30 AM  
 Sunday Evening Worship: ..... 6:00 PM  
 Ladies Bible Class: ..... 10:30 AM  
 Wed. Evening Bible Class: ..... 7:00 PM

### Serving Each Other

February 22nd, 2004      February 29th, 2004

	February 22nd, 2004	February 29th, 2004
<b>Sunday Morning</b>		
Songs:	Bill Fort	Ken Smith
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Ken Smith	Brent Stevens
Scripture Reading:	Brandon Foster	Sandy Nieves
Lord's Table	Leon Duncan	Dan Hand
	Glenn Williams	Leon Duncan
(assist)	Brent Moore	Ray Duncan
	Jack Gentry	John Gass
Closing Prayer	Larry Elliott	Bill Fort
<b>Sunday Evening</b>		
Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Hugh Atchley
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Dan Hand	Clay Bozarth
Scripture Reading:	John Gass	Dale Pinkley
Lord's Table	Dale Pinkley	Brent Stevens
	George Eddings	Larry Elliott
Closing Prayer	Brent Moore	Matt Bassing
<b>Wednesday</b>		
Songs:	Sandy Nieves	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Dale Pinkley	Rusty Windle
Invitation:	Kevin Cauley	Bob Moore
Closing Prayer:	Ray Duncan	Glenn Williams

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