

The Edification of the Congregation

Eph. 4:16

Introduction:

- A. Good to think what a congregations owes others.
 - 1. The gospel to the lost world (cf. Rom. 1:14).
 - 2. The relief of needy brethren in other places.
- B. Good to think of what congregation owes itself – self-edification.
 - 1. “Edify” means to build up.
 - 2. We notice four *avenues* of self-edification for a congregation.

Discussion

I. Education.

- A. The destructiveness of ignorance.
 - 1. Israel’s ignorance (Hos. 4:6)
 - 2. The Lord’s killers (Acts 3:17; 1 Cor. 2:8).
- B. The means of education.
 - 1. Teaching and preaching (2 Tim. 4:1-5).
 - 2. Study and searching (2 Tim. 2:15; Acts 17:11).
 - 3. Privately and publicly (Acts 15:6, 12, 22; 20:20).

II. Participation.

- A. In congregational worship (1 Cor. 14:15-17; 30-31, 40).
- B. In congregational work (Eph. 4:16).
- C. In all spiritual exercise individually and collectively – learn by doing (Heb. 5:12-14)

III. Multiplication.

- A. Church edified when number is multiplied (Acts 6:1, 7, 31)
 - 1. By converting alien sinners (Acts 3:9)
 - 2. By converting and restoring erring Christians (Jas. 5:19, 20)
- B. Church not edified merely by numbers, but converted numbers.

IV. Purification.

- A. Edification followed the deaths of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:11-15).
- B. Sometimes ungodly “leaven” must be removed for church to grow (cf. 1 Cor. 5:4-7).
- C. Some ways to guard the purity of the church.
 - 1. Plain and uncompromising teaching (cf. Gal. 2:14; 1 Tim. 5:20).
 - 2. Exercising caution in receiving brethren into fellowship (Acts 9:26-28; Rom. 14:1)
 - 3. Putting away unrepentant sinners from within (1 Cor. 5; Tit. 3:10; 1 Thess 5:14; 2 Thess 3:6).

Conclusion:

- A. We may have little impact on the edification of other congregations.
- B. We can edify ourselves by implementing the things we have studied.