

“Excel for the Edification of the Church”

1 Cor. 14:12

Introduction:

- A. God willed for Christians to work together in groups for their edification.
 - 1. Groups called churches. (cf. Rom. 16:16; 1 Cor. 1:1; Rev. 1)
 - 2. Edify means to build up - spiritually and numerically.
- B. God does not like the “go it alone” attitude. (1 Thess. 5:11)
 - 1. Yet, each individual gives account for himself.
 - 2. Each responsible for his part in the action of the group.
- C. This Lesson deals with 6 areas of attention to excel for edification.

Discussion:

I. Excel in Personnel. (Eph. 4:11,12)

- A. That accepts responsibility according to ability. (cf. 1 Pet. 5:2); Moses.
- B. That accepts limitations of ability. (Rom. 12:3-8).
 - 1. Seek help to determine ability. cf. 1 Cor. 12:16-18; 29-31)
 - 2. Limitations of time and ability. (cf. Acts 6)

II. Excel in Participation. (Eph. 4:16)

- A. In Assemblies. (Heb. 10:25; 1 Cor. 11,14).
- B. In Special Studies. (cf. Acts 15:22)
- C. In Work of church (Acts 11:29)

III. Excel in Planning. (cf. 1 Cor. 14:40)

- A. Makes for better understanding. (1 Cor. 14:7-19).
- B. Makes for better order. (1 Cor. 14:26-33).

IV. Excel in Patience.

- A. With one another. (Eph. 4:2)
- B. Especially weak brethren. (Rom. 15:1-2; 1 Cor. 8:1, 10:23)

V. Excel in Peace. (Acts 9:31; Rom. 14:19).

- A. By carefully handling threats to peace.
 - 1. Avoid unnecessary controversy. (1 Tim. 1:4).
 - 2. Care with personal convictions. (Rom. 14).
 - 3. Care to not spread strife. (Prov. 16:9, 14).
- B. By refusing to accept a false peace. (Jer. 6:13-14; 5:30-31)

VI. Excel in Purity. (2 Cor. 13:7-10).

- A. Sharp words may be needed at times to maintain purity. (cf. Tit. 1:13; Gal. 2:5, 14ff.)
- B. Sharp actions may be needed at times to maintain purity. (Gal. 5:)

Conclusion:

Let us EXCEL unto edification.