

# Peace and Edification: Powerful Combination

Rom. 14:19

## Introduction:

- A. God arranged Christians into groups for cooperation and edification.
  - 1. Groups called “churches”—well call them local churches or congregations.
  - 2. To jointly support preaching and needy saints. (Phil. 4:13ff; 1 Tim. 5:16).
  - 3. To mutually edify (teach, support, encourage, comfort) each other.
- B. Congregation's effectiveness depends on much needed combination of our text.
  - 1. Disruptive influences to be eliminated. (1 Cor. 5; Tit 3:10)
  - 2. Can have peace without edification, but hard to have edification without peace.

## Discussion:

### I. Peace

- A. We need to maintain *peaceful minds*. (Phil. 4:6-9).
  - 1. Such are in position to be helpful to others.
  - 2. Such is possible with effort and care on our part.
    - a. If it is a medical problem—get medical help.
    - b. If it is a spiritual problem—get spiritual help.
      - (1) Turn anxieties over to Lord. (vs. 6-7).
      - (2) Meditate on good things. (vs. 8-9).
- B. We need to maintain *peaceful meetings*. (1 Cor. 14:33,34).
  - 1. Worship assemblies.
  - 2. Bible Classes.
  - 3. Business meetings.
- C. We need to maintain *peaceful relations*. (Eph. 2:14-22)
  - 1. With God and one another through Christ.
  - 2. With one another through longsuffering, etc. (Eph. 4:3; Rom. 15:1-3).

### II. Edification

- A. We are edified by *sound doctrine*. (Eph. 4:12-16).
  - 1. Special responsibility of elders and preachers. (2 Tim. 3:16-4:4; Tit. 1:9-13)
  - 2. Some responsibility upon every member. (Tit. 2:1-8).
- B. We are edified by *pure speech*. (Eph. 4:29).
  - 1. Wholesome speech that promotes high standard of morality and spirituality.
  - 2. Truth as relates to events and Biblical truth.
- C. We are edified by *love action*. (1 Cor. 8:1).
  - 1. Some things that are lawful do not always edify. (1 Cor. 10:23).
    - a. Things demanded by law—always edify.
    - b. Things permitted by law—do not always edify.
  - 2. Some things take precedent over lawful rights—love for brethren.
    - a. May need to yield rights for sake of peace and edification. (1 Cor. 9).
    - b. May need to submit our judgment to judgment of others.
    - c. May need to be patient with certain scruples of others. (Rom. 15:1,2).

## Conclusion:

- A. It takes effort to build one another up in the faith.
  - 1. To do so each needs to follow things that make for peace.
  - 2. To do so each needs to follow things that edify each other.
- B. It takes all the help, teaching and encouragement we can get to make it.
  - 1. We need to work to keep congregation in position to give such.
  - 2. We need to work to take advantage of what congregational arrangement offers.