



Relationship Edification

Philippians 2:1-4

Philippians 2:1-4

- “Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”

Relationship Edification

- Each Christian can be edified to some extent on his own
 - Jude 20-21 - “But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”
- We can build ourselves up with God’s word
 - Acts 20:32 - “So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”

Relationship Edification

- However, we were designed to be mutually edified
 - Eph. 4:11-16 - “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”



Relationship Edification

- In fact, we are instructed to build up each other
 - 1Thes. 5:11 - “Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.”
- In the church, we must pursue Christian interdependence, not American independence.

Relationship Edification

- Relationship evangelism is the most effective means presently of teaching the Gospel to the lost
- In an era of electronic relationships, the Bible principle of relationship edification has become the most effective means of building up Christians.
- Edification - “oikodome: architecture, a structure; confirmation, building up, edify, edification, edifying” (Strongs)
- Edification - “From late Middle English: from Latin aedificatio, aedificare the act of building, the promotion of growth in Christian character; to edify is to instruct someone in way that enlightens them or uplifts them morally, spiritually, emotionally, or intellectually” (BibleHub.com)

Relationship Edification

- Are there Bible examples of relationship evangelism?
- Christians were together in more than just assemblies and Bible classes from the first day the church began
 - Acts 2:44-46 - “Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart”
 - Acts 5:42 - “And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.”



Relationship Edification

- We want relationships that will build us up
 - Prov. 12:26 - “The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray.”
 - Prov. 13:20 - “He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed.”
- We must be with one another in order to edify one another.

Edifying Relationships Are Built On Unity

- Christian unity is built on the common faith, godly love, and holy fellowship, and is defined by the absolute, sublime importance of what they share in common
 - Eph. 4:1-6 - “1, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”



Edifying Relationships Are Built On Unity

- Same body, saved by the same blood, sharing in the priceless inheritance in same family
- Same Spirit, same seal of ownership, same source of guidance, same motivation
- Same hope, same eternal destiny, same anticipation of heaven
- Same Lord, same commander, same Divine purpose in life
- Same faith, same belief system, same moral values, same wisdom and knowledge
- Same baptism, same birth experience, same life commitment
- Same God, same devotion, same Being worshiped, same love



Edifying Relationships Are Built On Unity

- Christians are united by the word of God.
 - The scriptures teach our common heritage.
 - The scriptures provide a mutual code of conduct.
 - The scriptures provide us with a unified view of God.

Edifying Relationships Are Built On Unity

- Christians are bound together by the same worthy purpose for life.
 - 1Peter 2:9 - “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;”
 - 2Cor. 5:20 - “Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.”
- This unity facilitates our mutual up building



Mutual Edification Is Built On Patience

- Patience is a fundamental element of love
 - 1Cor. 13:4 - “Love suffers long and is kind...”
- God shows us a Divine example of patience
 - 2Peter 3:9 - “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

Mutual Edification Is Built On Patience

- What we do with regard to patience toward our brethren, is what we want from God under similar circumstances
 - Matt. 18:24-30 - “And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. 26 The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all. 27 Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. 28 But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me what you owe! 29 So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay you all. 30 And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt.”

Mutual Edification Is Built On Patience

- Patience is required of all Christians toward all other Christians
 - 1Thes. 5:14 - “Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all”
- We come from a variety of backgrounds; we grow at different rates
 - Rom. 15:1-2, 7 - “We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification... 7 Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God”
- Mutual edification is facilitated when we are patient with one another



Mutual Edification Is Built On Empathy

- All of us battle temptations in one form or another; no one is exempt
- “Shoot the wounded... what we do to people who are the most vulnerable... we shoot the wounded. As if they haven't suffered enough, we add to it by gossiping and treating hurt people like outcasts. I think we kill the spirits of those who suffer, instead of coming alongside and supporting them through this.” (*Lynn Dove, Shoot the Wounded*)



Mutual Edification Is Built On Empathy

- We face temptation and sin more successfully with others than when alone
 - Life on earth is a war - Eph. 6:10-17
 - Temptations are common to all men - 1Cor. 10:13
 - When we are alone in the flesh, we often fall into sin through our temptations - James 1:14

Mutual Edification Is Built On Empathy

- We all lose battles against the Adversary
 - Rom. 3:10, 23 - “As it is written: There is none righteous, no, not one... 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”
- Every Christian sins
 - 1John 1:6, 8 - “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth... 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”
 - Rom. 7:18-19 - “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. 19 For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.”

Mutual Edification Is Built On Empathy

- Mutual edification comes, not from a position of moral superiority, but one of personal, heart felt empathy
 - Gal. 6:1-3 - “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. 2 Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. 3 For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.”
- Mutual, relationship edification is a requirement, not an option

Relationship Edification

- Christians must edify and encourage each other, and they must be together often in order to do this
 - Heb. 10:23-25 - “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”