

## Pursue Edification

Ponder: How can I build you up in Christ?

Scripture: “Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace, and the things by which one may edify another” (Romans 14:19, NKJV).

Just as an “edifice” is a building, to “edify” means to build up. Paul told the Christians at Rome to pursue (follow after, chase) the things by which to edify each other. Specifically what things would those be?

Paul spoke this to the elders of the Ephesian church: “I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up . . .” (Acts 20:26). Yes, God’s word is one great source of edification! Just as a balanced diet helps to build up your physical body, God’s word is a balanced diet for your inner person, and will help to build up your soul. Indulge yourself in regular Bible reading and study!

Additionally, meeting frequently with the local congregation results in edification. In the context of the assembly, Paul exhorted the Corinthians to “let all things be done for edification” (1 Corinthians 14:26). Singing God’s praises builds us up spiritually. Hearing God’s word read and proclaimed builds us up. Praying together builds us up (assuming the prayer leader speaks so as to be understood, see 1 Corinthians 14:17). Aren’t we supposed to worship God when we come together? Most assuredly! But never forget that we are also charged with building each other up.

Christians are members of Christ’s body. As such, each member is to do it’s share, causing the growth of the body, for the edifying of itself in love (see Ephesians 4:16). By no means is this limited to the assembly. Everywhere and at all times, members of the body are to be working for Jesus, doing things that will help the body grow and help individual members become stronger.

Since edification is to be “in love,” let’s hear Paul again: “Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies” (1 Corinthians 8:1). Some of the Corinthians were using their knowledge arrogantly and offensively. A know-it-all is puffed up, but love builds up. Let us humble ourselves, not seeking to please ourselves, but our neighbors, resulting in their edification (Romans 15:2).