Edification Eph. 4:11-16

W.E.Vine says it "denotes the act of building," and "is used only figuratively in the N.T., in the sense of edification, the promotion of spiritual growth."

Edification

- Some things in which we should grow.
- Some things that hinder spiritual growth.
- Some things that will help spiritual growth.

Some Things In Which We Should Grow

- Grace and Knowledge. 2 Pet. 3:18; 1:2; 2:20
- Christlikeness. Eph. 4:15; Phil. 2:5; 1 Pet. 2:21
- Judgment. Phil. 1:9; Heb. 5:13-14; Phil. 1:10
- Character. Rom. 1:18-32; Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 1 Thess. 4:11-12

Some Things In Which We Should Grow

- Spiritual Sacrifices. 1 Pet. 2:5
- Faith & Love. 2Thess. 1:3; Jno. 13:35; 1 Jno. 4:20ff
- Ability to serve. Rom. 12:1-2; 6:13; 2Tim, 2:21

Some Things That **Hinder** Spiritual Growth...

- Love of money. 1 Tim. 6:10; Lk. 12:15
- Neglect / Indifference. Heb. 2:3; Eph. 5:14; Mt. 6:33; Lk. 14:15ff
- Youthful lusts. 2Tim. 2:22-23; Gen. 39:9-12; Job 20:11; Jms. 4:14-15
- Dull of hearing. Heb. 5:11ff; Jno. 12:37-40
- Negative attitudes. 1 Pet. 2:1; cf. 1:23

Some Things That Will **Help** Spiritual Growth...

- Right appetite. 1 Pet. 2:2
- Right spiritual diet. Jno. 6:35
- Proper exercise. 1Tim. 4:7; Heb. 5:14; 1Thess. 5:21-22
- Heeding what we hear. Heb. 2:1; cf. Mt. 13:14ff
- Purity of mind and heart. Prov. 4:23; 23:7; Mt. 12:34; Phil. 2:5

Some Things In Which We Should Grow

- Grace and Knowledge.
- Christlikeness.
- Judgment.
- Character
- Spiritual Sacrifices.
- Faith & Love.
- Ability to serve

Some Things That **Hinder** Spiritual Growth...

- Love of money.
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Some Things That Will Help Spiritual Growth...

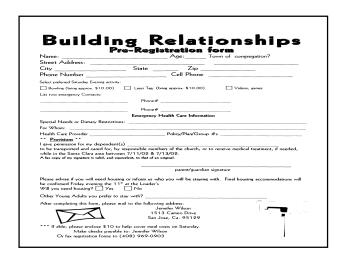
- Right appetite.
- Right spiritual diet.
- Proper exercise.
- Heeding what we hear.
- Purity of mind and heart.

Edification

- •For the church to grow, we must build up self!!!
- •We grow or we die!!!

Building Relationships July 11-13, 2003 Third Annual Youth Gospel Meeting at the Church of Christ in Santa Clara For Jr. High through College Ages Guest Speakers: Andy Cantrell from North Hills, CA Zach Echols from Bakersfield, CA July 12, 2003 Saturday- 10:00am-11:15am: *Bible classes & singing 4:30pm-5:30pm: *Bible classes & singing 4:30pm-5:30pm: *Bible classes sees in the single sees of the sees of the single sees of the si





EDIFICATION ARGUMENT

Is social/recreational activity spiritual edification?

•Cf. Eph. 4:11-16; Acts 20:32 God's word is adequate for spiritual edification!

EDIFICATION ARGUMENT

- To slip social activities in under the guise of spiritual edification opens the floodgates to apostasy.
- While some enjoy suppers and parties, others enjoy gyms, golfing, fishing, hunting, camping, working on old cars, woodworking, etc.
- If such things truly provides spiritual edification, why can't we read of the N.T. churches providing such things?

Gal 1:6-7 "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto <u>another</u> (heteros), gospel: Which is not <u>another</u> (allos); but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. KJV

Paul speaks of "a different gospel (heteros), which is not another" (allos, another like the one he preached), Gal 1:6-7. **Allos** expresses a numerical difference and denotes "another of the same sort"; **Heteros** expresses a qualitative difference and denotes "another of a different sort." (W.E. Vine)

The "social gospel" is "another gospel." Cf. Gal. I:8-9

- The gospel of Christ is to save the soul for eternity...
 The social gospel calls for the improvement of social conditions for the here and now.
- The gospel of Christ treats the disease while the social gospel treats only the symptoms.
- The gospel of Christ seeks to convert people to Christ; the later simply to a better more pleasant way of life.

The "social gospel" is "another gospel". Cf. Gal. I:8-9

- The gospel of Christ seeks to make society better by making Christians while the social gospel seeks to make Christians through social adjustments.
 - For example, educators are urged to combat social diseases, unwed motherhood, and other related problems by teaching and making arrangements for "safe sex," whereas the gospel of Christ simply says "Flee fornication."

The "social gospel" is "another gospel". Cf. Gal. I:8-9

- The standard of authority for each is also different.
 - For the gospel of Christ, it is the Scripture, the wisdom of God;
 - •For the social gospel it is human wisdom (Cf. Jms. 3:13-17; 1 Cor. 1:20-25)

CONCLUSION:

- No man has the right to prostitute the energy, strength, zeal or resources of the church of our Lord to serve human aims or purposes.
- We must let the church be distinct as the church, so adorned as to glorify the head—even Christ.
- God gave His Son for it.
- The Lord of glory died for it.
- We must not bring its lofty mission down to serve the outward man, but rather we must keep it pure to serve the interest of heaven for which we must strive.