

Edifying One Another in Christ
1 Corinthians 14

“The area of the New Testament prophet was not so much foretelling as it was forth telling. Speaking forth God's truth to the people. As we speak forth God's truth to the people, they are built up in their faith. They are built up in their relationship with Jesus Christ. They are built up in their fellowship with the Lord. As we speak forth God's truth, they are exhorted in their walk with the Lord, in their commitment to Jesus Christ, in their abandonment of the flesh to live and to walk after the Spirit. And they are exhorted to trust the Lord, to commit to the Lord, to believe in the Lord. They are comforted as we speak forth God's Word, as they realize it is all in God's hands and God will take care of it, and God is going to work. And as I just patiently wait, I shall see the work of God and glorify Him and praise His name, and I am comforted by the Word of God. The gift of prophecy has a broad value as the church is benefited by its exercise. Benefited because it is built up, it is exhorted, it is comforted, it is encouraged, which of course is exhortation.” Chuck Smith

- I. Paul exhorts us to follow the way of agape love. It is the best way to build upon the foundation of Christ, and it is the only way to build one another up in the faith. Therefore, we must guard against any form of pride or spiritual one-upmanship over the grace gifts we've been given through the Spirit. It's an either-or proposition. Either we build up through love or tear down through pride. One builds upon the foundation of Christ using gold, silver, costly stones, the other builds upon the foundation of Christ using wood, hay, or straw. One brings forth blessings and eternal rewards; the other brings nothing and gains nothing.

1 Cor. 14:1-2

1 Cor. 3:10-13

Mark 16:17

Acts 2:1-4

Acts 10:45-46

Acts 19:6

“God does not give anyone the gift of tongues for the direct sake of others (though indirectly others are edified), but for that believer and God alone.” Guzik

- II. Paul exhorts us to edify the church by allowing God to speak biblical truth through us supernaturally to minister to one another in the love of Christ. He has given each one of us the responsibility to strengthen, encourage and comfort one another through what we say, for the purpose of edifying his church. Our words and actions have power to either build up or tear down, and our intelligible words are the primary means God uses to edify his church and draw souls into his kingdom.

1 Cor. 14:3-25

1 Jn. 4:14

Isa. 28:11-12

- III. Paul exhorts us to be a church that is orderly in its worship of Christ. It is to be a place that brings understanding of his truth instead of confusion and consternation, and it is to be a place where we use our gifts to strengthen, encourage and comfort one another in his love. A church that puts 1 Corinthians 13 into practice, is a church that edifies the body with true heartfelt agape love. It is a church that honors the name of Christ.

1 Cor. 14:26-40

1 Thess. 2:13

1 Thessalonians 5:10-11 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.