

# EPHESIANS 4:11-16



These notes are from a sermon given by Pastor Wayne Flowers at Smythe Street Church on Sunday Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

## Building Others Up

### Introduction:

Today we will embrace the topic of **"Building Others Up."**  
We will look at three powerful and Biblical aspects of doing this:

**EDIFY - EQUIP - ENCOURAGE**

**Question:** Who are you consistently and sincerely helping to become a better person and a more mature follower of Jesus?

May the Holy Spirit capture our hearts and instill these truths!

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed to and fro by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:11-16 (NIVUK)

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up as you are already doing. 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:11

The first of the three key words and truths that I would like to unpack is:

#### **1. Edify.**

To edify is to lift someone up and strengthen them morally, spiritually or intellectually.

It carries with it the sense of building someone up.

The word "**edifice**" is derived from the word "**edify.**"

Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify (build up) another. Romans 14:19

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up (edify) according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. Eph. 4:29

**The easiest thing in the world is to tear something or someone down!!**

No real skill involved. SMASH, RIP, TEAR UNTIL NOTHING IS LEFT. HOW SAD!!

All you are left with is a mess – hurt and pain are everywhere!!

#### **Don't you just love those people who...**

- Always leave you feeling like you can be and are a better person?
- Build your courage.
- Build your confidence.
- Build your character.

**Are you that kind of person for others?**

## **Illustration:**

A wise and skillful builder can look at a piece of ground – overgrown with weeds or filled with debris - and see a beautiful building.

They can look at a dilapidated and neglected house – or a room – and envision a warm and invited place that people can enjoy.

## **Thank God for those people who can look at someone and see what they can become!**

Step by step – day by day – they build something into their lives.

They help them become the person God has called them to be.

## **2. Equip.**

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

Ephesians 4:11-12

**Equip** – as Paul would have used this term – means:

A strengthening, a complete furnishing, fully preparing, equipping.

To equip is to put the right tools in the hands of others.

It is to prepare and give others the opportunity to lead and bless others with their serving.

It is to enable and empower them to do the work of ministry hands on!

## **This is the primary role of church leadership!!**

To equip you to do the work of ministry!!

A staff run church is a church that is bottle-necking the kingdom work!

It is a weak church that is not fulfilling it's potential!

## **What do I fear?**

### **1. That others will not do it as well or in the same way that I do it!**

- Pride?
- Prejudice?
- Control?

Yes, there is order and spiritual authority. God has sanctioned this.

Even civil laws recognize who has the commission to do certain things.

But this is not about that.

We need to equip and empower people to carry out their God given ministry and leadership.

### **2. That I will be out of a job! I will not be needed!**

- This is a needless fear.
- There will always be room for leaders who equip and empower others!

### **3. We fear a commitment that we cannot meet time wise or skill wise.**

- Time? You have time for everything else!! Make time for this!
- Skill? You are only asked to empty your bucket. Give what you have!

### 3. Encourage.

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up as you are already doing. 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:11

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 13:11

**To encourage is to instill courage.**

We are either encouraging or discouraging.

We are either building up or tearing down.

We are either filling someone's tank or draining their tank.

Church family is the place where you will be encouraged to become a someone who is more Christ-like.

The greatest joy and purpose in life is to help someone else be better, be stronger, to go farther and the excel in all that God has asked them to be and do.

**How do people experience you?**

What do you leave them that helps them be a better person?

In what ways do you encourage others?

Are you a refreshing wind for the spirit of a tired and beaten up friend?

This is more than being nice. Niceness is over-rated! It actually can be a detriment.

Here are some things we can do to accomplish this:

**1. Prayer.** Going to God on behalf of another. Intercession.

**2. Presence.** Make yourself available to others.

**3. Words.** The power of a timely and wise word.

**4. Example.** Be the person you hope the other will become.

**5. Listening.** Sometimes people just need to be heard.

**6. Attitude.** Humility is the most needed characteristic of someone who is encouraging.

**7. Respect.** Honour the dignity of others. You will quickly gain their loyal heart.

**8. Truth.** Speak up when it matters most. Do not be afraid.

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed to and fro by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. Ephesians 4:14-16