

# Edification-The Provisions

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**Text - Eph 4:12-16**

**Introduction:** What is edification, and why is it so important in the lives of believers? The word used for “edification” in the New Testament translates literally as “**to build a house**.” The word appears in the King James Bible only about 20 times, and then only in the New Testament. Interestingly, its usage is also limited to Paul’s letters.

To some, edification, may sound like one of those words they teach you in college so that you can sound smart regardless of the truth. We certainly don’t want to be like the college English student who was working on suffixes and thought that if “humidification” meant to make something more humid, and if “solidification” meant to make something more solid, then “edification” must mean to make something more like someone named “Ed”.

Edification, according to Webster, simply means, “enlightening of ignorance, or moral or spiritual instruction.” In the New Testament the word often translated as “**edify**” or “**edification**,” is a compound word made up of οικος (Oikos), which means house, & δομεω (Domeo), which means to build. These two words together literally mean, “**to build a house**.”

It is used in the **literal** sense many places in the New Testament in reference to a house or other building. It is used in relation to the temple (Acts 7:47), a Synagogue, a barn (Lk 12:8), a tower (Mt 21:33) and even the sepulchers of the prophets (Mt. 23:29).

The word is also used **figuratively**...The first figurative usage refers to the coming into existence and expansion of the church. Jesus says in Mt 16:8, “upon this rock I will **build** my church.” Jesus is not referring to some physical building somewhere, but the universal church made up of all those who believe in Him. 1 Peter 2:5 says in a similar way that Christians, “as living stones, are being **built up** as a spiritual house . . .”. Paul states directly in 1 Cor 3:9 that Christians are “**God’s building**”. The nature of this building of God, the Church, is that it is to grow. (Eph 2:21).

Another figurative usage of “edification” is “enlightening of ignorance, or moral or spiritual instruction.” This is to **build up** spiritually. We will see how that is done in the church in a moment, but before I go on, let me add a footnote here why I have told you so much background on this word we often translate as “**edification**.”

God Has Provided Means For Our Edification:

## The Scriptures

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**Preaching / Teaching / Living**

## The Home

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**Parents / Children / Life / Problems / Blessings / etc.**

## The Church

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**Congregational / Cooperative / Corporately / Charitable**

**The Body**

**The Building**

**Acts 9:31** Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

**Romans 14:19** Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

**1 Corinthians 8:1** Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.

**1 Corinthians 10:23** All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.

**1 Corinthians 14:4** He that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

**1 Corinthians 14:5** I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater *is* he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

**1 Corinthians 14:12** Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual *gifts*, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.

**1 Corinthians 14:17** For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.

**1 Corinthians 14:26** How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

**2 Corinthians 12:19** Again, think ye that we excuse ourselves unto you? we speak before God in Christ: but *we do* all things, dearly beloved, for your edifying.

**Ephesians 4:12** For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

**Ephesians 4:16** From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

**Ephesians 4:29** Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

**1 Thessalonians 5:11** Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

**1 Timothy 1:4** Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: *so do*.