

# The Work of the Local Church: Edification

Text: Ephesians 4:11-16

## Introduction:

1. The church functions as a corporate body on the local level (three areas of work: *edify*, *evangelize*, and *encourage* needy saints).
2. **Edify**: “To build”; “...promoting the spiritual growth and development of character of believers...” “to strengthen, more firmly establish”, **Col. 2:6-7 (2:4-5, 8, 10)**.
3. Work of promoting spiritual growth is clearly one of the missions of the local church, **1 Cor. 14:26**.
4. God’s tool for edification is His word, **Acts 20:32; 1 Pet. 2:2**. (Not games and gimmicks, not social, political agendas, etc.)

## I. Edification Is Vital Acts 14:21-22.

**Very Important to Edify** (Strengthen, Encourage) **Each Other**, **1 Thess. 5:11; 2 Cor. 12:19**.

1. *For the growth of the church*, **Eph. 4:16**.
2. *For harmony in the church*, **Rom. 14:19**.
3. *For the salvation of Christians*, **1 Pet. 2:1-2**.  
-Put away evil and grow in righteousness.

## II. Edification Is Individual (requires individual determination and effort to achieve).

A. The **Church** is **Edified** when the **Individual** Christians **Grow** (are strengthened), **Col. 2:5-7; Eph. 4:16**.

B. **Individual Admonitions** that will **Promote Personal Growth** (edification):

1. Present yourself approved, **2 Tim. 2:15**.
  2. Each must hold to sound words, **2 Tim. 1:13**.
  3. These things must belong to each one, **2 Pet. 1:8**.
- C. We Must **Strengthen Ourselves** to be Able to **Help Others Grow**.

1. Cannot edify with impure speech, **Eph. 4:29**.
2. Only when we have love and good works can we effectively provoke them in others, **Heb. 10:24-25**.

## III. Edification Is Local (Congregational: Ways local churches edify members) Acts 9:31

A. Through **Worship Assemblies**, **Heb. 10:24-25; 1 Cor. 14:26**.

1. Singing, **Col. 3:16**.
2. Come together to eat the Lord’s supper, **1 Cor. 11:27-32**.
3. We must be participants, not spectators.
4. Edification is not achieved through recreational activities, crafts, childcare, etc., **1 Cor. 11:34**.

B. Through **Bible Teaching**, cf. **Acts 20:28, 32**.

1. Preaching, **Acts 20:7**.
2. Classes: Teaching children and adults is vital - We must see its worth and contribute our part, cf. **Acts 11:23, 26; 20:20**.
3. Teaching edifies only if we actually use it.

C. Through **Disciplining Sin**, **1 Cor. 5:4-7; Rom. 16:17-19**.

1. Remove what destroys spiritual growth – sin.
2. Enemies of cross cannot edify the body of Christ, **Phil. 3:17-19**.

D. By **Encouraging Brethren** to **Do Good** and Promote **Love (Mutual Concern)**, **1 Thess. 5:14-15; Gal. 6:10**.

## Conclusion

1. Christ will bless and strengthen the church that takes seriously its work of edification.
2. “*Let all things be done for edification.*” **1 Cor. 14:26 (Rom. 14:19)**