

Edification Exercise (or better, observation)

Edification definition - oikodomē :

- The act of building up (metaphorically as in a building).
- The act of one who promotes another's growth in Christian wisdom, piety, happiness, holiness

Explanation of where I would like us to go with this:

We are all practicing social distancing to some extent. We also have a mandate to forsake not the assembly of ourselves together. We also have a mandate to love our neighbors and love one another as Christ loved His Church. We also have a mandate to obey the laws of the country we reside in. We have all experienced the tension in making the right choices that fit our families, our work, and our practice of faith. I would like to explore this a bit and then talk about it Friday morning.

My hope is that we would be edified through the conversation, that we would be aware of the mighty hand of God on the move, and that we would be prepared to share the peace that passes all understanding with a world that desperately needs it.

Assignment:

1. From the Scriptures below and the definition above, put together a working definition of edification in context with our present day situation.
2. The good news is that you guys are already making huge effort to practice this, so instead of saying, "go edify someone and report about it", we can ask you to watch and pray, observe what you see going on around you in different circles that edifies, and come back and report on Friday. You can even start the conversation early on the men's group thread or bulletin board.
3. Next, a little further guidance on what I am driving at... This reporting can be more of a gratefulness report about how much you see God at work and see His hand in your relationships and in those whom you have observed.
4. Further, I would also like to focus in a bit on how this relates to the Church Body itself. How do you see God's Church which cannot fail and which the gates of hell cannot prevail against in all of this? (*e.g. going into Palm Sunday then Easter and not meeting in person for maybe the first time in the history of this nation*)
5. Finally, let the Scriptures be your guide (not necessarily only those which I have posted below), and report on how the Scriptures have prepared you for such a time as this. (*Note: There are questions attached to each Scripture passage that may help to put it in perspective and move through the assignment. Also, pay attention to context so that we are not tempted to insert ourselves into a passage in a way that betrays the intent of the verse.*)

Suggestion: Reach out to someone in the group and talk about this ahead of time in addition to the observation while relating to others on a daily basis.

Scripture passages:

1 Thessalonians 5:11 KJV Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also you are already doing.

What is comforting about true edification?

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

How has God equipped you personally with gifts that edify the Church and those around you?

Ephesians 4:11-13 KJV And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; (12) For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: (13) Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

How do these Spiritual gifts work together to foster unity?

Ephesians 4:15-16 KJV But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: (16) From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplies, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, makes increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Why is truth essential when practicing edification? What happens when the truth is brought to bear without love? What happens when you attempt to love someone outside of or neglecting/skirting the truth?

Ephesians 4:29 KJV 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.

Does corrupt communication just mean don't cuss/swear? Or is it something deeper? How has your daily communication edified or torn down those around you?

How does it effect your relationship with God when your communication is corrupt or when it is edifying?