

“Spirit of Truth” (14:17).

Provide the peace of God (14:27).

Remind of teaching (14:26).

Be with us forever (14:16-18).

The Mission Strategy

Be a People-builder in worshipping assemblies. In the assemblies that special attention should be paid to building up one another (Hebrews 10:24-25). When we miss assemblies, we forsake God and forsake our brethren’s needs as well as our own. “Are YOU coming and are YOU offering the encouragement that another needs?”

Be a People-Builder by limiting critical words, facial expressions, and gestures! Some find it easier to use critical words rather than encouraging words. You choose what words you communicate (Proverbs 16:24; Psalm 52:4; 19:14).

Be a People-Builder by specific communication. Identify exactly what another has done that is good (Ephesians 1:15, 16; Colossians 1:3-8).

Be a People-Builder by affirmation not manipulation. Be sincere in your communication.

Be a People-Builder by clarity. Communicate exactly HOW the person has acted or spoken that resulted in good deeds glory to God. Do not mix words of encouragement with unclear or sarcastic comments—“I can’t believe YOU did such a good job!”

Be a People-Builder by writing short notes.

Implement Your Intentions to Become a People-Builder

When we talk about “taming our tongue,” “pruning the grapevine,” “wearing Granny’s Glasses” or avoiding “angry words that are carried in a sack of rocks or polished Trophy Hurts,” we ought to conclude that the best way of speaking from our hearts is done by becoming a God-fearing “People-builder.”

- ◆ Such will never gossip, backbite, or slander.
- ◆ Such will avoid profanity.
- ◆ Such will cause us to control angry impulses.

Determine to use these biblical principles and become a great “People-builder” in this congregation! If you choose to do this, then a wonderful residual benefit result—it will build you up as well. It will develop within you a keen eye for the true, noble, lovely, admirable, and praiseworthy (Philippians 4:8).

Words of exhortation and edification are powerful enhancers of “the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.”

Hopefully this class will lead you to a critical “So, then...” response!

“So, then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another” (Romans 14:19).



Lesson Ten: How To Be A People-Builder! Dalraida Church of Christ

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“So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another” (Romans 14:19).

“Building up” is an interesting communication concept. It is from a compound Greek term *using oikos*, “a house” and *domeō*, and refers to a “house builder.” Pride and integrity are the main concepts. One builds a sturdy house able to stand against destructive elements. To “edify” another is “to build that person up so that strength and stability are evident; you help them to stand against destructive elements.”

Edification is a visible result of “speaking from the heart.” When your communication, constructive criticism and positive instruction are spoken to “build up” the one hearing you speak, that one becomes a suitable dwelling place for God—where the Lord is “at home.” (Colossians 3:16).

The Christian is to communicate the Word of God so that God will feel “at home.” The process of “edification” must not be regarded as optional. Each Christian is a “builder” and the integrity of their “building” will be exposed at the Judgment. Inspiration emphasizes this accountability (1 Corinthians 3:8-14).

- ◆ “How will MY building skills be revealed on the Judgment Day?”
- ◆ “What kind of builder am I?”
- ◆ “Are my building skills carefully used?”
- ◆ “What quality is my building?”

Proper building (construction) requires proper decision-making. Christ wants us to make the right decisions and speak from the heart. When alarms sound because their world is about to collapse; they are discouraged; they are fighting various threats to their faithfulness. Christ’s messages to those

struggling were always correct!

The Church today must follow Christ's example. Long after we depart this life our presence lingers in the words we spoke. The words you speak to others, are seared into their memory. When a person's name is mentioned, we instantly recall those words.

"What is the one trait for which your speech will be remembered?"

God urges us to leave a lasting legacy of nobility in speech—to be forever remembered as a "People-Builder."

Of all speech habits that Christians need to develop, the most needed and most neglected is the "People-Builder." Encouragement is a fundamental need for all of us. We need regular reminders that we are important and loved. From where will these reminders come in your life? (Job 1:9-10).

Man needs "authentic edification." The Christian counters the world's negativism and offers peace and edification!

The Daily Environment

⇒ *The daily environment of the world fails to build with honesty.*

Everyone needs to be affirmed, built up, and given regular reminders of the good they do. This realization of one's "good" qualities is critical.

Encouragement is a "must provide" to us by others! A failure to receive this encouragement, results in abnormalities!

Exhortation calls us to be challenged to a greater maturity, productivity and vision of what each can do to magnify God's work! (Hebrews 13:22; 10:24).

The Christian is to exhort men and women to spiritual greatness. This is greatness NOT as the world defines it but as God commands it (Mark 9:34-35).

Let us call our brethren to greatness by authentic encouragement; affirm their noble qualities; applaud their individualism and differences that help the Church to grow; deal honestly with their counterproductive beliefs and behavior; love and accept "as God loved and accepted you"!

⇒ *The daily environment of the world fails to build with truthful values.*

The earthly values say you are valuable ONLY IF you are attractive, wealthy, athletic, smart, young, powerful, and sexy. The total focus is on the outward! In the 1980s psychologists coined a phrase describing how the culture was changed by an "epidemic of inferiority." Those following the philosophy of the world, live in stark contrast with the Christian (Psalm 63:5).

The world is a discouraging, demeaning, and belittling environment. A survey was conducted in the mid-1980s among early adolescents. One of the sections asked those being surveyed to write down the most pressing question in their lives. The respondents wanted to know "What's wrong with me?"

Our daily environment feeds us with negative messages that demoralize and drain our initiative for activity. "You're no good, you're no good, you're no good. Baby you're no good."

⇒ *The daily environment the Church/Christian MUST build with truthful values.*

You need to be an influence that is totally different from the world! (Matthew 5:13). God designed His Church to edify just as He edifies! Our God is a God of affirmation, and He designed His Church to be the source of affirmation in this world of sin and sorrow (Ephesians 2:14-16).

- ◆ God's cosmetics are MUCH more effective (Titus 2:10).
- ◆ God encourages us to achieve and excel (Revelation 2:10).
- ◆ God communicated for the purpose of encouraging man.
- ◆ God fulfilled every promise (2 Corinthians 1:20).
- ◆ God affirms and emancipates people (Ephesians 2:19).

As His children we ought to imitate God's example and strive to offer great encouragement to others! (Matthew 5:48)

⇒ *The daily environment of the Church/Christian builds with these actions.*

Discouragement redirects our attention from our mission objectives. The Christian should have a positive vocabulary voicing a trusting faith in the Almighty God (Psalm 59:12-16). The world seeks to mis-direct our focus by placing emphasis upon money, possessions, worldly associations, status and prestige in society. This robs us of eternal life waiting for the steadfast!

"Don't invest your hearts too heavily in earthly possessions. Why should I fear anything that cannot rob me of God and why should I desire anything that cannot give me possession of God?"

God's encouragement comes through the Bible and His Church. Christian encouragement is a front-line defense against sin. In the Church we should find People-Builders who see the best in us and expect the best from us. Two key New Testament words describe this duty.

◇ EDIFICATION

The local congregation is a "house raising" for each member!

Romans 15:1-3

Hebrews 3:13

1 Corinthians 8:1, 2

Ephesians 4:13-16

Colossians 1:28

1 Corinthians 14:12

Being a People-Builder requires us to choose patience, graciousness, and love. God expects EACH member of the congregation to serve in this construction! Do you accept and perform this expected service? (Galatians 5:13).

◇ EXHORTATION

The Greek literally means to "comfort; entreat; encourage." To call someone to your side and give the needed assistance (Acts 4:36; Hebrews 3:13).

The process of exhortation is illustrated in the work of the Holy Spirit (John 14-16). The Holy Spirit exhorts, encourages and comforts. The supply providing "exhortation" comes from the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).