

**“Edification:
Are you tough enough to be positive?”**

Ephesians 4:11-16

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- 11) 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 fulness of Christ:

Ephesians 4:11-16

- 14) That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;
- 15) 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 supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Three Principles to Building a House

- To Build a House...Consider the Cost of Building the House

Considering the Cost

Luke 14:28-30

- 28) For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have *sufficient* to finish *it*?
- 29) Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish *it*, all that behold *it* begin to mock him,
- 30) Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.

1. Don't Be a Stumbling Block

Romans 14:12-13

- 12) So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.
- 13) Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

**2A. It is Easier to Destruct
than to Construct**

2 Corinthians 10:8-10, 13:10

8 For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed:

9 That I may not seem as if I would terrify you by letters.

10 For his letters, say they, are weighty and powerful; but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible.

**2B. It is Easier to Destruct
than to Construct**

2 Corinthians 13:10

10) Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the power which the Lord hath given me to edification, and not to destruction.

The Example of Barnabas

Galatians 2:11-13

11) But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed.

12) For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.

13) And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation.

3. Be Cautious of Arrogance

Romans 12:3

3) For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

4. Work on Humility For Acceptance

Philippians 2:3-5

- 3) Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.
- 4) Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.
- 5) Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Three Principles to Building a House

- To Build a House...Consider the Cost of Building the House
- To Build a House...Start With a Good Foundation

A Good Foundation

Matthew 7:24-27

- 24) Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:
- 25) And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.
- 26) And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:
- 27) And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

1. Change to Receive Edification

Hebrews 13:22

- 22) And I beseech you, brethren, suffer the word of exhortation: for I have written a letter unto you in few words.

2. Change to Put Others First

1 Corinthians 10:23-24

- 23) All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.

- 24) Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth.

Romans 14:14

- 14) I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

3. Change to Always Edify, Instead of Always Deteriorating

1 Corinthians 14:26

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.

Three Principles to Building a House

- To Build a House...Consider the Cost of Building the House
- To Build a House...Start With a Good Foundation
- To Build a House...Focus on Completion

Focus on Completion

John 4:34-35

34) Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

35) Say not ye, There are yet four months, and *then* cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

1. Focus on Edifying Disciples

1 Timothy 1:3-4

- 3) As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,
- 4) Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.

2. Focus on Edifying the Church

1 Corinthians 14:3-5

- 3) But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort.
- 4) He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.
- 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.

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Look Forward – Not Behind

Philippians 3:13-14

13) Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

14) I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

FINISH the Course

2 Timothy 4:7-8

7) I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

8) Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

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