

## “I KNOW YOUR WORKS” EDIFICATION

### INTRODUCTION

**A. Matthew 16:18**

Jesus promised to build the church, so its importance cannot be shrugged off.

**B. Revelation 3:7-8**

He knows what each church is up to, so its works ought to conform to His will.

**C.** Continuing a series begun last week, we intend to examine those works the church is authorized in Scripture to engage in and then contrast those permitted functions against illegitimate activity.

**D.** The second work to be recognized is that of edification, the work of building up the church.

### I. THE CHURCH MUST EDIFY ITSELF

**A. Ephesians 4:11-16**

The Lord designed the church to edify itself.

**B. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:12, 19, 26**

Edification was the foremost concern the apostle Paul had for the church.

**C. Acts 9:31**

Edified churches matter!

### II. THE CHURCH IS EQUIPPED FOR EDIFICATION

Paul enumerated several roles within the body meant for its edification (**Ephesians 4:11**).

**A. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 2:19-22**

Apostles and prophets were set first and second in the church. Theirs is a foundational role in the church.

1. **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:8-10; Acts 1:21-22**

The end of prophecy was foretold and the qualification of apostleship excludes all living persons, so no one on earth is an apostle or prophet now.

2. **2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:1-2; Ephesians 3:1-5**

Nevertheless, we can still be mindful of their words because those words were written down for our understanding!

**B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:1-5; Acts 21:8**

The work of an evangelist, the fulfillment of his ministry, is to preach God's word, doing so in its negative and positive aspects, regardless of popularity. Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven (**Acts 6:1-7**), demonstrated the work of an evangelist when he preached to Samaria (**Acts 8:5-13**) and to the Ethiopian treasurer (**Acts 8:26-40**).

**C. 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:1-5**

Paul's list (**Ephesians 4:11**) included "pastors," which means "shepherds," and the work of shepherding was not assigned to preachers, but to "elders" whose work is to oversee.

1. **Titus 1:5-9**

Elders must meet certain qualifications of character and experience in order to serve.

2. **Hebrews 13:7, 17, 24**

They have serious work to do and ought to be respected for it.

**D. Romans 12:6-7**

Apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastors are all teachers, but it's possible to be a teacher without being any of those things. A church should have many teachers.

1. **Hebrews 5:12-14**

Given time, pretty much every Christian should be capable of teaching. What you have learned, you should be able to impart to others.

**2. James 3:1**

We shouldn't be hasty, though. Teaching is an enormously consequential responsibility.

**E. Philippians 1:1; 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:8-13**

Not listed among agents of edification (**Ephesians 4:11**), are deacons, who, by definition, are servants, functioning under the authority of elders and who, like elders, must be qualified.

**III. HOW THE CHURCH EDIFIES**

**A. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 4:17; Hebrews 13:22; 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4:13, 16**

There must be teaching done in every church, which is why brethren are called on to bear with exhortation, and why preachers are told to continue in exhortation and doctrine, that hearers may be saved.

**B. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11:17-34; Acts 20:7**

The Lord's Supper is eaten in memory of Christ's body and blood when the church comes together in one place and waits for one another.

**C. Acts 12:5, 12**

The church offers prayer collectively.

**D. Colossians 3:16; 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:12, 15**

Singing, just singing without instrumental accompaniment, is a one to another proposition. It must be done in church, for edification, and done with comprehension.

**E. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 16:1-2**

Churches are under orders from the apostle Paul to take up weekly collections in order to carry out their duty.

**CONCLUSION**

**A. Acts 2:40-42**

Saved people are in the continual habit of participating in the ongoing edification of the church. If you've been saved, but you're not edifying, get back in the habit! If you enjoy the edification, don't miss the first step; get baptized!