**THINGS THAT EDIFY ANOTHER**

**Text: Romans 14:12-20**

* 12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.
* 13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in *our* brother’s way.
* 14 I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that *there is* nothing unclean of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him *it is* unclean.
* 15 Yet if your brother is grieved because of *your* food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died.
* 16 Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil;
* 17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
* 18 For he who serves Christ in these things[a] *is* acceptable to God and approved by men.
* 19 Therefore let us pursue the things *which make* for peace and the things by which one may edify another.
* 20 Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed *are* pure, but *it is* evil for the man who eats with offense.

**INTRO:**

* Edifying the body of Christ
* Principles in Edifying the body of Christ
* Edifying One Another
* Things that Edify Another
* To edify means to build a house, erect a building
* to build (up from the foundation)
* to restore by building, to rebuild, repair

**AIM:**

* FOR US TO KNOW WHAT EDIFIES ANOTHER
* FOR US TO BE BUILDERS (EDIFIERS) OF THE BODY OF CHRIST INSTEAD OF DESTROYERS

**I. RECEIVING ONE WHO IS WEAK IN FAITH-Romans 14:1**

* Romans 15:1 We who are strong ought to bear with the failings
* of the weak and not to please ourselves.
* Romans 15:2 Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up.
* I Thessalonians 5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.
* Ezekiel 34:20 ‘Therefore thus says the Lord God to them: “Behold, I Myself will judge between the fat and the lean sheep.
* 21 Because you have pushed with side and shoulder, butted all the weak ones with your horns, and scattered them abroad,

**II. NOT DISPUTING OVER DOUBTFUL THINGS-V 1**

* For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats *only* vegetables-V 2
* Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him-V 3
* Do not judge another’s servant
* Do not dispute over days
* One person esteems *one* day above another; another esteems every day *alike.* Let each be fully convinced in his own mind-v 5
* He who observes the day, observes *it* to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe *it.* He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks-v 6

**III. LIVING FOR THE LORD**

* For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself-V 7
* For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s-V 8
* What we do unto others, we do them as to the Lord
* We would not hurt the Lord nor His body (the church) if we really live for Him
* We hurt His Body because we are so carnal and selfish
* We only care our own reputation, ego, and interest
* II Corinthians 5:15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

**IV. NOT JUDGING OUR BROTHER-V 10**

* to pronounce an opinion concerning right and wrong
* to pronounce judgment of those who act the part of judges or arbiters in matters of common life, or pass judgment on the deeds and words of others
* Do not show contempt (treating them as inferior)-v 10
* For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ-v 10
* II Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
* So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.-v 12
* Therefore let us not judge one another anymore-v 13

**V. NOT PUTTING A STUMBLING BLOCK OR A CAUSE TO FALL IN OUR BROTHER’S WAY-V 13**

* I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that *there is* nothing unclean of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him *it is* unclean-V 14
* Yet if your brother is grieved because of *your* food, you are no longer walking in love. Do not destroy with your food the one for whom Christ died-V 15
* Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil-V 16

**VI. RIGHTEOUSNESS, PEACE , AND JOY IN THE HOLY GHOST-V 17**

* These are the real things that edify another
* For the kingdom of God is not about eating and drinking
* For he who serves Christ in these things *is* acceptable to God and approved by men-v 18
* Therefore let us pursue the things *which make* for peace and the things by which one may edify another.-v 19
* Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food-v 20
* All things indeed *are* pure, but *it is* evil for the man who eats with offense-v 20
* *It is* good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor *do anything* by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak-v 21

**VII. PROPHESYING TO ONE ANOTHER**

* I Corinthians 14:1 Pursue love, and desire spiritual *gifts,* but especially that you may prophesy.
* He who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men-I Cor 14:3
* He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church-I Cor 14:4
* I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies *is* greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification-I Cor 14:5
* Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual *gifts,* *let it be* for the edification of the church *that* you seek to excel-I Cor 14:12
* How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification-I Cor 14:26
* Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.
* II Cor 13:10 Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the authority which the Lord has given me for edification and not for destruction.
* II Cor 10:8 For even if I should boast somewhat more about our authority, which the Lord gave us for edification and not for your destruction, I shall not be ashamed—
* II Cor 12:19 Again, do you think that we excuse ourselves to you? We speak before God in Christ. But *we do* all things, beloved, for your edification.

**CHALLENGE:**

* Are you living and dying for Christ and His Body?
* Are your words edifying others?
* Is everything you do for the edification of others?
* Are you pursuing things that edify another?

**CONCLUSION:**

* Romans 14:19 Therefore let us pursue the things *which make* for peace and the things by which one may edify another.
* I Corinthians 10:23 All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me but not all things edify.