# ARE YOU A BUILDER?

Scriptures: Romans 14:19; 1 Corinthians 10:23;

1 Thessalonians 5:11; 1 Corinthians 14:12,26;

Ephesians 4:7,11-13,29; 1 Corinthians 8:1

**SUNDAY MAY 4, 2008**

*But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.*

Jude 1:20,21

Jesus said: "I will build my church."

Cain asked: "Am I my brother's keeper?"

We don't ask that in the church. Rather, we ask:

"**How** may I best help my brother or sister in the Lord to grow and come to know Christ better?"

"**How** may I encourage him/her?"

"**How** may I build him/her up in his/her most holy faith?

In the Kingdom, what doesn't help, hurts; what doesn't add, subtracts; what doesn't build up, tears down. Church life is the constant process of people who know and serve the Lord building each other up to know and serve the Lord better. As Christians, we are all to be builders. If we're not building, then we're tearing down.

## GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

1. God gave His WORD for the building up of His church.
2. God placed spiritual gifts within the church for the building up of His church.
3. God placed giftedness and MINISTRIES in the church for the building up of His church.
4. God poured out the HOLYSPIRIT on His people on the day of Pentecost for the building up of His church.
5. God filled each believer with His LOVE for the building up of His church.
6. God instructs us to love one another and CARE for one another for the building up of His church.
7. God expects each believer to do HIS or HER part for the building up of His church.

## SOME WAYS WE BUILD UP OUR BROTHERS/SISTERS

1. Trough ENCOURAGEMENT.

See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. Hebrews 3:12,13

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we

may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:23-25

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11

2. Through PRAYER.

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Ephesians 6:18

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16

3. Through friendship and SERVICE.

You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. Galatians 5:13

"Everything is permissible"--but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible"--but not everything is constructive. Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others. 1 Corinthians 10:23,24

4. Through pointing them to the TRUTH.

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. Ephesians 4:15

5. Through holding them ACCOUNTABLE.

6. Through a GODLY EXAMPLE.

Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ. 1 Corinthians 11:1

Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. Therefore I urge you to imitate me. For this reason I am sending to you Timothy, my son whom I love, who is faithful in the Lord. He will remind you of my way of life in Christ Jesus, which agrees with what I teach everywhere in every church. 1 Corinthians 4:15-17

**WE DO NOT BUILD UP OUR BROTHERS/SISTERS:**

1. By being CRITICAL and judgmental.
2. Remaining DETACHED or isolated..
3. MEDDLING where we don't belong.
4. Gossiping or talking behind their backs.
5. Unwise or IMPROPER sharing of confidences.
6. Feeding their EGOS.

A. FLATTERY

B. Saying ONLY what they WANT to hear.

C. ENABLING or condoning improper behavior or attitudes.

**RESPONSIVE READING**

Romans 14:19; 1 Corinthians 10:23;

1 Thessalonians 5:11; 1 Corinthians 14:12,26;

Ephesians 4:7,11-13,29; 1 Corinthians 8:1

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

**"Everything is permissible"--but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible"--but not everything is constructive.**

[1]Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

**So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church.**

What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation.

**All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.**

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

**It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,**

to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

**until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.**

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen

**Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.**