

*"Wherefore **Comfort Yourselves Together, And Edify One Another**, even as also ye do." 1 Thessalonians 5:11 KJV*

God's Love is the cement that holds faith together: Edification is the trowel that applies it. *"By this shall all men know that ye are My Disciples that ye have Love one for another. And this is My Commandment that ye love one another as I have Loved you."* Think HOW Christ Loved you. Webster's 1828 dictionary defines edify as: To instruct and improve the mind in knowledge generally, and particularly in faith and holiness. Synonyms for edify are: build, establish, uplift, enlighten and inform. Many "programs" today's "Churches" offer only increase attendance. While that isn't a bad thing, it often becomes evil when it takes the place of God's Word being zealously upheld and preached. Believer's responsibility is to lift up others to the face of God; not impress with knowledge and programs. Through personal study, prayer, and meditation, I am to increase my intimate relationship with God, so I can enlighten and inform the uninformed, be they believer or not. I can encourage and uplift my fellows in faith through dedicated single-mindedness. Our mutual edification of each other serves to embellish and strengthen the bond of perfection in the *"Body of Christ,"* the Church with the love FOR God. *"There is no fear in love; but Perfect Love casteth out fear."* If my goal is building you up in the faith, then I must first love God with all my heart, so I can then love you with the Holy Love of Christ. If not, my effort becomes duty, rather than an opportunity. I must be quick to join in praise and worship of Christ, kindly point out error in doctrine, weep with those who sorrow, rejoice with those who are blessed, ready to give to the need of my fellows in faith, and preach the Gospel to the lost. I must *"be all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."* My body is my earthly tool to perform my Heavenly Service. *"Present your bodies a living sacrifice, Holy, acceptable unto God, which is your REASONABLE service."* The hammer doesn't complain about being struck too hard and the pencil does not cry out when sharpened. We must *"endure hardness, walk in the Light as He is in the Light,"* so we may *"have fellowship one with another."* That is, fellowship with Christ through the Church; the Body of Christ. Love is the cement that holds the *"lively stones"* of the Church of Jesus Christ firmly in place, so we may be *"stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the Work of the Lord,"* If I know you sincerely care about me, I will be more prone to value what you say. Without *"Charity [we] become as sounding brass;"* inharmonic noise! We are to treat enemies with compassion and brothers with Love. *"Let brotherly love continue. Avenge not yourselves...therefore, if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. As we have...opportunity...do good unto all men, ESPECIALLY unto them who are of the Household of Faith."*

The faithful I must edify,
And not just let them wander by,
To so unveil the Master's face,
That all may see amazing Grace! –CGP

It's funny how when we are corrected by God and we experience Blessing and Benefit therefrom in ourselves, that we immediately begin noticing the same faults in others. We begin to criticize rather than edify. Edification is the natural outpouring of a heart that loves God, and it manifests itself with affection, not rejection. It is helping a fallen one up to God with a passion!

"For the Kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but Righteousness, and Peace, and Joy in the Holy Ghost. For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men. Let us therefore follow after the things which make for Peace, and things wherewith one may EDIFY another."
Romans 14:17-19 KJV

