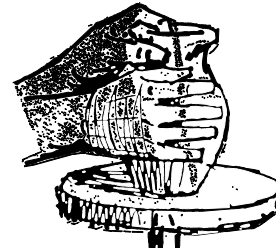


His Workmanship at Westside

*"For we are His
workmanship, created in
Christ Jesus for good works."
—Ephesians 2:10*



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Isaiah 64:8

Edification: Strengthening the Church *from articles by Brent Kercheville, Kevin Cauley*

The mutual edification of Christians is one of the most important functions of a church. Paul told the Corinthians he did *"all things, beloved, for your edification,"* 2 Cor 12:19. Christ gave gifts to the church *"for the equipping of the saints,"* which is edifying, or building up the saints, Eph 4:11-16. Edify means "to instruct or to improve spiritually, to build, to establish firmly, and to instruct, especially in moral and religious knowledge; to promote another's growth in wisdom, holiness, and godliness, to strengthen," *Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary*. It is ***building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life,*** Jude 20-21. Thus, it requires faith, prayer, the power of the Holy Spirit, and an eager looking for the Lord's mercy unto eternal life. To build faith, we must emphasize the word of God, for faith comes by hearing the word of God, Rm 10:17, and the word of God is inspired by the Holy Spirit, 2 Tim 3:16-17. Only the Scriptures can equip us for every good work. The Scriptures by the power of the Spirit

motivate us to prayer and to looking forward to our Lord's return, cf. 2 Tim 4:1, 8; Tit 2:13-14; Col 3:4.

Edification of Christians is essential, Ax 14:21-22. Edification helps us withstand temptation and sin, Eph 4:11-17. When we are strengthened in the faith, we have stability of doctrine and security in Christ. Spiritual maturity enhances our ability to discern good from evil and thus helps us avoid sin, Heb. 5:13-14. Edification also helps us to develop a godly character, 2 Pet 1:5-11. Without character we become idle, barren, forgetful, and blind—so we stumble. But as we strengthen our "chain of character," we are secure in Christ.

"The [early] churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied," Acts 9:31. Godly edification had the purpose of encouraging the fear of the Lord and giving comfort by the Holy Spirit, and it multiplied the numbers of Christians in the churches of those regions.

God gave the responsibility to edify to both individuals and the church. Individually, practicing edification

helps us learn to focus on others, not on ourselves. *"Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing,"* 1 Thes 5:11. It is meant for comfort and encouragement: It is Christians teaching Christians the comfort and hope of the scriptures, Rm 15:1-4. It is important to edify (strengthen and encourage) our brethren ***to help the church grow,*** Eph 4:16; ***to foster harmony and unity in the church,*** Rm 14:19; and ***to rescue erring Christians,*** 1 Pet 2:1-2. Only when the individual grows (is strengthened) will the church be edified, Col. 2:5-7. Each joint (each Christian) is an important part for the work, growth, and strength of the church. Not only do the strong ones edify the weak, Gal 6:1-2, but also the weak build up the strong, and all edify one another, 1 Cor 12:7, 11-27. When everyone is maturing spiritually, the church works in harmony, and conflicts are eliminated. Maturity seeks the other's good, Rm 15:1-2. Thus, edification is closely connected to unity—we don't do what we want, we do what our brethren want when we see that it will edify them. The result *continued on p. 2*

Edification: “...Let all things be done for edification.” —1 Corinthians 14:26

is unity and glorifying God. It takes love to edify, 1 Cor 8:1. We focus on other Christians, not on ourselves.

Edification also refers to the many tasks that a church undertakes to foster spiritual growth of its Christians and unity within that church. The church has a responsibility to minister to its own. Some among the saved may be tempted to leave Christ and His church and return to the world, 2 Pet 2:20-22. The church's duty is to rescue them before it is too late, cf. Jas 5:20. When Paul admonished the Corinthian church about their disorderly conduct when they used spiritual gifts in their assemblies, he said, “let all things be done for edification,” 1 Cor 14:26. The church in Corinth was to do things that would edify the entire congregation. Paul said that when we come to the unity of the faith, no longer tossed to and fro, and are speaking the truth in love, this “causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love,” Eph 4:11-16. That was why Christ gave the church apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers, for maturity and unity in the faith. Thus, edification is closely related to unity in the church: “Let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another,” Rm 14:19.

A church edifies its members in many ways:

♥ By **assembling** together, 1 Cor. 14:26. All things done in the assembly must be done for building up the church—for helping the individual Christians grow in Christ. Our singing is meant to build each other up. Our sermons and classes are to be based on the Scriptures and are meant to build each other up. Assembling together is one of the many ways we urge one another to love and good works. “And let us consider one an-

other in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” Heb 10:24-25 (19-27).

♥ When we assemble, we **worship** together. We must come together in an effort that is not selfish—our purpose is to bring praise, honor, and devotion to our great Lord. And worshipping also edifies and encourages one another. Our singing builds us up and helps us remember: “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord,” Col 3:16; see also Eph 5:18-21 (speaking in hymns, singing, making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks, and submitting to one another are all designed by God to build us up in faith and unity). Our singing is meant to build each other up. We must participate in worship, because we are part of the Lord's body and because we assemble together to encourage one another. We are never an audience, spectators watching others perform or make a presentation—because we all are doing our part to encourage the brethren. All of our worship is edifying. Glorifying God together truly builds us up. Our praise to God is done in a way that we as worshipers are built up and the words that we are saying strengthen one another. Even our public prayers should be edifying, 1 Cor 14:26-27. When we pray, it is not just a matter of spending a minute or two saying some words—it is our opportunity to pray for one another to be strengthened and edified. When a talk is given for the Lord's supper, we are glorifying the work Christ has done and encouraging each of us to

focus on His saving grace, remember our sins, and dedicate ourselves to His return. A sermon is not a thirty minute time filler, an entertainment presentation, or comedic act. Preaching is words of truth that will strengthen us so we can be better servants. It is the wisdom of God, 1 Cor 1:18-21. We must all place great effort into edifying all who participate. “Let all things be done for edification.” God all the more shows why we need to be present as much as possible. Strengthening and encouragement can only take place when we are assembling together as Hebrews 10:25 tells us.

♥ When we assemble together, we **teach** one another and are taught, Ax 11:23, 26; 20:28, 32. Sermons and classes based on the scriptures are meant to build each other up. It is a tool for strengthening us: “So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified,” Ax 20:32; see also Col 2:6-7. There is never too much time spent in teaching the word of God. The more each of us knows about God's word, the more it can affect our lives and strengthen us to be better servants.

Teaching edifies and encourages us to:

- Grow in grace and knowledge of truth, 2 Pet 3:18;
- Become more like Jesus Christ, Eph 4:11-16; Rm 8:29;
- Produce and assume the fruit of the Spirit, Gal 5:22-25; Eph 5:9; Jn 15:1-8;
- Put on the whole armor of God, Eph 6:10-18, 2 Cor 6:7; 1 Thes 5:8-11; and
- Abound in love “in knowledge and all discernment,” Phil 1:9; 1 Thes 3:12; 2 Cor 8:7.

♥ **Our speech** is another way that we build one another up in the holy faith. Speaking the words of God edifies the whole church, 1 Cor 14:3-4, 12. The

continued on p. 3



Psalm 133:1



Fill your can-teen in 2013

“May you be filled with all the fullness of God.”
—Ephesians 3:19

Edification of the Saints from p. 2
Corinthians wanted spiritual gifts for pride, but Paul exhorted them that they were purposefully given by God for the edification of the church. What did spiritual gifts do? They revealed and confirmed the word of God. Today, that word has been revealed and confirmed, but not all of it to everyone—some Christians know much more about the Bible than others. We need to continue “revealing” the word and building up each other’s faith in that word. Each of us is charged to speak to one another so that we can be encouraged. We can use our lips to speak about spiritual things and take advantage of the opportunities to mention God’s word, the difficulties we may have in serving Him, questions we have about God’s will in our lives, and any other spiritual topic. When we get together for socializing, we grow our relationships and even more so if we speak about God at those times.

“Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear,” Eph 4:29 ESV. Our words should not tear others down, but build them up and impart grace. Our words must strengthen others spiritually. Our speech is to be seasoned with grace, so we can edify, Col 4:6; 1 Pet 4:10. In order to edify, we must be just as careful about what we do not say as

Discipleship Here At Home

what we do say. When we say things that are critical or harmful of others, complain about what others are doing, engage in gossiping, whisperings, and backbiting, we tear others down spiritually. Not only do we forfeit our own soul, but we also endanger another soul. Even careless words can corrupt others’ minds.

♥ A church that exercises proper **discipline**, Rm. 16:17-18, edifies its members. It removes those elements which destroy spiritual growth, 1 Cor 5:7, and it produces a proper respect for the Lord, Ax 5:11, 14. *Enemies of the cross cannot edify the body!*

♥ We edify one another through **love**, Eph 4:16; 1 Cor 8:1; 13:4; Rm 15:2; 1 Thes 5:12-14; 1 Pet 4:8-10. When we are willing to give ourselves for others, think of others before ourselves, and submit ourselves one to another, we exhibit love, and this builds the church. *“Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies,”* 1 Cor 8:1. Take our focus off self and place it on the needs of others to strengthen them. Serving others impacts their lives. We have the blessed opportunity to show the love of God.

Local churches edify when every member does his part. Edification begins with the individual. A local body of Christ is doing the work of edification when each of its members does his share.

When members assemble together, teach the word, speak the truth in love, build others up, and love one another, then we edify. The primary responsibility of edification falls upon each individual. We cannot shirk our duties or try to create some organization to do the work for us. We are told to do these things ourselves. When everyone does his/her part in edifying others within the local church, we get a beautiful picture of peace and harmony, Eph 4:16. When the body is edified, more souls will be saved. Good edification affects evangelism. When each Christian is strong, more of the lost will be brought to Christ.

REJOICE! Janice Spagnola was baptized into Christ last Monday night. She is the 86-year-old mother of **Gina Elliott**, who was baptized last Oct. 31. Janice lives next to Gina at 12533 E. 31st Ave, Aurora, 80011, 303-766-7687.

Bereaved A memorial service for **Gail Storatz**, Gary Boyd’s sister, is planned for 4/12 or 13. Send cards to her son: **Zac Storatz**, 7420 E. Quincy Ave, Unit 305, Denver 80237.

PRAY FOR healing, protection, help, and comfort here & away

Samantha Harrod—surgery Wed to remove pilonidal cyst at base of spine

Mark Campbell—full recovery expected from “brain bruise”; respiratory testing at Nat’l Jewish after pneumonia complication

Matt Reames—VA unable to insert shunt to drain fluid from his brain (hydrocephalus), the cause of Matt’s headaches and blurred vision; pray for VA speed

Madge Wallace—lung cancer; radiation ended; new chemo starts in two weeks

Judy Strand’s son Joe Huff—recurrence of neurological symptoms, black-outs, from brain injury he suffered in a 2007 car accident

Rod Green—recovery from pneumonia

Pat Campbell’s mother, Ruth Hice—blood transfusion for anemia last week

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Logan Corray; Rocco Sangellino Jr; Addison Tope; Pat Wilkes—asthma

Pearl Chapman—leg pains; pancreatitis

Nell Free—heart; spinal pain

Autumn Hadders—epilepsy

Kirk Johnson—worsening MS; house-bound in cold weather and needs help

Menards—age; **Lloyd**, diabetes; **Virginia**, now legally blind from rapid macular degeneration; high BP

Lynda Szymanski—COPD, lung

Job concerns **Andrew Tope** and **Frank Savarese** are seeking jobs. **The Menards’** son is out of work.

Expecting **Marie Carlson**—July 1 girl



Exposing current thoughts & trends

The China Syndrome by Tony Perkins

Imagine, for a moment, the entire population of the United States. Then, picture everyone disappearing. That's how many people the country of China has aborted under its barbaric "one-child" policy since 1971. Estimates from the Chinese health ministry (which are almost certainly low) record more than 330 million abortions—one-fourth of China's current population. At a rate of 1,500 babies an hour, the Chinese government is wiping its future generations off the face of the map—and endangering its existing ones with China's disproportionate attack against baby girls.

Tragically, the U.S. government is playing a role in this genocide with taxpayer support of the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA), which condones China's policy. Although President Bush was quick to zero out American support, the U.S. endorsement came back under President Obama, who has funneled more than \$180 million dollars to UNFPA over the past four years. In 2012, this pattern of violence is what prompted outspoken pro-life activist Chen Guangcheng to flee China and seek refuge in the U.S. His courage in fighting his country's forced abortions and sterilizations prompted a rare showing of bipartisanship, as leaders from both parties stood up and applauded him. But they didn't come together to defund UNFPA and hold the United Nations accountable. If the Senate is looking for places to cut as they debate the budget this week, this seems like a no-brainer!

Domino's Gets a Slice of the Action

Last week Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (R-Neb) asked the President about the contraception-abortion pill mandate. So far, 50 lawsuits have been filed in opposition to the mandate—including the latest from the owner of Beckwith Electric. Like so many Americans, Thomas Beckwith believes life begins at conception, so paying for drugs that can take that life is out of the question. If his company refuses to comply, Beckwith could face \$6 million in fines per year.

Last Thursday, a U.S. District Judge blocked the mandate from taking affect at Domino's Farms Corp, where Domino's Pizza owner Thomas Monaghan's Catholic views were under attack. "It is in the best interest of the public that Monaghan not be compelled to act in conflict with his religious beliefs," the court ruled. It was a huge victory that every American could share if Congress takes up Rep. Diane Black's Health Care Conscience Act.

Westside church of Christ

meets at
13789 W. 8th Avenue
Golden, Colorado 80401
(303) 233-5683

Pastors

Larry Campbell (303) 462-4987

DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

Preacher

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

Assembly Schedule

Sunday

Bible classes	9:00 am
Morning assembly	10:00 am
Afternoon assembly	1:30 pm

Wednesday

Bible classes	7:30 pm
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Grounded in Authority Series

this afternoon at 1:30 PM:

"*The Work of the Church:*

Edification" by DeWayne Howell

Goals: Mid-range goals help us check whether we're headed in the right direction. "On my way to heaven I will _____ by the end of 2013." We are now about 1/4 through 2013. The goals mentioned in January for this church included: **A.** Share, serve, and sustain relationships within this local church. **B.** Become a positive presence in our community. **C.** Become a praying and evangelistic church, cf. Ax 2:42; 4:23-33; 8:4; 11:20-26; Phil 4:15-19. Midrange goals to help were 1) Sustain 100 or more average at worship by May as God gives the increase, 1 Cor 3:6; 2) 80% of Sunday morning worshippers in Sunday Bible study by April; 3) make a list of people you know who don't know Christ, and mention the Lord, invite them to a Bible study or worship assembly, pray for them daily; 4) commit to meet with brethren at least once a week outside Sunday meeting; 5) memorize Scripture. Are we on track? What adjustments or corrections do we need to make? Are you doing your part in meeting our goals to serve the Lord?