

Edify One Another

Ephesians 4:25-32

Introduction

The word "edify" means to build up. In communicating with others, Christians are called to use our speech to build people up instead of tearing them down. We are to minister grace to one another by conveying kindness, blessing, and divine influences to those that hear our words. Whether in our homes, on the job with coworkers, or in relationships with friends – at all times and places we are to offer words that are constructive in nature. In James 4:11 we are instructed not to "speak against one another" and in James 5:9 we are told not to complain against each other. When we engage in conversation that is destructive to others – words centered on grumbling, criticizing, or tearing people down - we grieve the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 3:30) thereby hindering His work in our own lives.

Edifying others doesn't imply that we can't correct one another. However, when called to do so, we must express ourselves in a way that is constructive and leaves people encouraged to keep moving forward. We are told in Scripture to speak the truth to each other, but even when we have to tell someone where they have been wrong, we edify when we also give them the steps to make things better or right their wrong. We are to always be on the lookout for ways we can speak God's goodness into the life of another and encourage them by using words to build them up and encourage them in their walk with the Lord.

Getting Started

1. Have a few people in your group look up verses in their Bible concordance that reference the tongue. *What does God's Word have to say about the tongue?*
2. *Why does it grieve the Holy Spirit when we tear others down?*

Let's Get Personal

1. *Has anyone ever had to correct you and done so in an edifying way? If so, share your experience with the group.*
2. James 3:6 says, "...the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity." *Do you struggle with controlling your tongue? If so, in what way?*

Take the Next Step

1. *Think about your own circles of influence – spouse, children, other family members, friends, or coworkers . How can you be intentional this week building them up?*
2. *Speaking hope means helping others to see God's perspective on a thing and not just what they can see physically. What Scriptures do you know that you could share with another person that might give them hope, encouragement, or build them up in their faith? Share those with your group.*
3. *If you tend to be critical or gossip about others, make a conscious effort this week to refrain from doing so. In place of destructive speech, seek out ways to constructively speak of and to others.*

Renew Your Mind

"Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear." Ephesians 4:29