

Building Up One Another

There are many endeavors in life. We may go to work, school, the voting booth, a baseball game, movie, concert, or some other event. Each of these activities requires a certain amount of involvement, and when we involve ourselves in them, we commit to a certain level of participation. Some of these activities may be dismissed because our involvement in them is minimal. Others require more involvement and participation. The more effort we put into the activity, the more we will get out of it in the long run. The greatest endeavor in which one may be involved is the Lord's Church.

There are many, however, who look at the church as simply another opportunity like work, school, or a game. This is not the Lord's view of the church. The church is the body of believers for which Christ died and shed His blood (Acts 20:28). He committed fully to her establishment, and he commits fully to her success. We must have the same level of commitment to the church if she is going to be successful. Lack of commitment to the church is one of the greatest threats to church unity.

Paul wrote in Eph. 4:15-16, "15Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love." In all things we are to have love one toward another. This, however, does not mean that everyone does the same work. In Romans 12 and in 1 Corinthians 12, Paul discusses how each member has different abilities. Different parts of the physical body work differently. The eye cannot do the hearing, etc. So also in the church everyone has their role to perform. We need to make an effort to determine what those roles are and try to fill them to the best of our ability; otherwise, we will have disunity.

Working together and building up each other can be hard; it is an endeavor. Trying to find easy solutions to difficult problems never works out in the long run; this kind of attitude leads to the cafeteria mentality for churches. Pick what you want, consume it and leave. Strong and lasting relationships depend on our working out our differences according to God's pattern and then building each other up. May God help us to so do. He can fix anything.

By: Don Jacobs