



Many of us struggle with commitment for a vast array of reasons. However, our growth and progress in life is largely dependent on our level of commitment in key areas of life. In the early church we find that they had four key commitments that caused them to develop into the Church that the Lord wanted them to be. Not everyone was on board, and not all followed God's plan, but those who did experienced Him in powerful ways. Let's discuss and discover the third key commitment of this young body of believers.

READ

Acts 4:31-5:14

TO DO

What needs are you meeting in the body of Christ? How are you building up the body to be what God wants it to be? What is God calling you to do today?

READING LIST:

Monday: John 13:3-17
Tuesday: Romans 12:1-16
Wednesday: Ephesians 4:1-6
Thursday: Ephesians 4:11-16
Friday: Ephesians 5:1-21
Saturday: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
Sunday: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

"The corporate nature of edification cannot be overemphasized. Without mutual edification, the church becomes a collection of spiritual weaklings, a perpetual nursery for spiritual infants, rather than a growing body of believers."

Edify the Church

September 29, 2019

DISCUSSION:

1. Have you ever seen first-hand what edification looks like on a sports team or in a workplace? If so, share your experience with the group. How did this environment impact each participant?
2. In your own words, how do you describe what it means to edify someone? Why is this so important in the church?
3. According to Romans 14:15-20, what are some of the things that might hinder us from unity and edification? What is the clear instruction in verse 19?
4. Ephesians 5:18 commands us to be filled with the Holy Spirit. What are the results of that filling (Ephesians 5:19-21)?
5. As a group, read Galatians 5:21-26 and list out the "Fruit of the Spirit". Then read Galatians 5:16-21 then list out the "deeds of the flesh." Contrast these passages. In what ways do some of the attributes correlate to each other?
6. Now, consider what was happening in the early church in Acts 4. How are the actions and attitudes of the early church consistent with what you have already read about the fruit of the Spirit? What practical things did they do to edify one another?
7. What image did God give us in 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 to describe our need for each other and connection to each other as Christians? What lessons does this illustration teach us? How is this image impacted when one "member" isn't doing its part?
8. Now, consider what happened in Acts 5. How were the actions of Ananias and Sapphira clearly deeds of the flesh? How did it impact their own lives? How did it impact the church? What was the result?

Conclusion: This is a powerful reminder to us that we must always put on the armor of God. When Satan can't attack us from outside through persecution, he usually attacks from within through deception. As a group read, Ephesians 6:10-18 and take time to pray for one another.