

“Building Up One Another” ***Ephesians 4: 15-16***

INTRODUCTION: Isolation Is The Enemy Of Spiritual Growth

- God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love—like Christ in everything. We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do. He keeps us in step with each other. His very breath and blood flow through us, nourishing us so that we will grow up healthy in God, robust in love.
(Ephesians 4: 15-16—The Message)
- The Bible teaches us that we cannot grow spiritually as we need to in isolation from one another. We need to be supporting one another in love and prayer.
- Again and again, New Testament writers exhorted believers to engage in specific activities that would enable the body of Christ to function effectively and to grow spiritually.

Seven Ways We Can Build Up One Another:

1. God is pleased when we are _____.
 - Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. (1 Peter 3:8—NIV)
2. God is pleased when we _____.
 - For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.
(Galatians 5:13—The New Living Translation)

3. God is pleased when we _____.
4. God is pleased when we _____.
 - It is often helpful to develop an intentional plan for encouraging others. If we only speak encouragement when we happen to think to, we are probably not doing it enough. (see Proverbs 10:21; 15:4)
(Gavin Ortland)
5. God is pleased when we _____.
6. God is pleased when we _____.
 - I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.
(Romans 15:14—English Standard Version)
7. God is pleased when we _____.
 - Love one another tenderly as fellow Christians. Outdo one another in showing respect.
(Romans 12:10—William F. Beck Translation)

CONCLUSION: The Promised Reward For Faithfulness

- Most rewards are received _____.
- All rewards are based on _____.
- No reward that is _____.
- What you see is not what you get. What you see will vanish, never to reappear. What is coming is permanent, never to diminish. It endures forever. It is more real.
(Mark Buchanan)