Divine Authority

Lesson 12

The Individual Christian, The Local Church and Edification

What We Have Learned In The Previous Lesson

What is evangelism?

Individual Christian and evangelism

The local church and evangelism

The New Testament says nothing about…

What Is Evangelism?

Spreading the good news of Jesus Christ to the lost

The Individual Christian And Evangelism

Teach gospel to lost as we have opportunity

Live righteous life before lost to encourage their obedience

Refer lost to others who can teach them gospel

Support evangelists who preach gospel

Combine with other Christians in evangelistic efforts

The Local Church And Evangelism

Local church evangelistic work authorized

Local church may support preacher working with them

Local church may support preacher in other area

The Local Church And Evangelism

Several local churches may support preacher in other area

Local church may provide evangelism training for members

Local church may provide for special gospel efforts

The New Testament Says Nothing About…

Local church using benevolence to evangelize

Local church using recreation to evangelize

Local churches sending money through evangelistic organizations

Local churches sending money through a sponsoring church

Introduction

- Edification is an authorized work of the local church
- Disagreement with majority of churches of Christ about what ways local churches are authorized to do edification work
- Many brethren have departed from the New Testament pattern of edification

Some Sources of Erroneous Thinking

- Wrong ideas about edification
- Confusing roles of individual Christians and local church in edification
- Wrong ideas about authorized methods of local church doing edification work

Purposes of This Lesson

- Clearly define edification
- Examine role of individual Christians in edification
- Examine the role of a local church in edification
- Identify where churches of Christ have departed from the New Testament pattern on edification

The Individual Christian, The Local Church and Edification

What is edification?

Individual Christian and edification

The local church and edification

The New Testament says nothing about…

What Is Edification?

A. Noun.

oikodome (G3619) denotes (a) "the act of building" (oikos, "a home," and demo, "to build"); this is used only figuratively in the NT, in the sense of edification, the promotion of spiritual growth (lit., "the things of building up"),

W. E. Vine, An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words

What Is Edification?

B. Verb.

oikodomeo (G3618), (b) is used metaphorically, in the sense of "edifying," promoting the spiritual growth and development of character of believers, by teaching or by example, suggesting such spiritual progress as the result of patient labor.

W. E. Vine, An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words

What Is Edification?

Edification means to build up a person spiritually through teaching and application of the Word of God

What Is Edification?

1Co 14:26 What is *the outcome* then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

The Individual Christian And Edification

- Individual Christians have a wider ranging responsibility in edification that can be done separate from that of a local church
- Local church responsibility involves collective action where individual Christians agree to work together in various ways
- New Testament reveals patterns for these responsibilities in edification

The Individual Christian And Edification

Influence world through teaching and example

Teach and apply the Word in our families

Work for the maturing of Christians

Influence World Through Teaching And Example

Mat 5:13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty *again?* It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men.

Mat 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;

Influence World Through Teaching And Example

Mat 5:15 nor does *anyone* light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

Mat 5:16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Influence World Through Teaching And Example

Phi 2:14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing;

Phi 2:15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,

Influence World Through Teaching And Example

Phi 2:16 holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

Influence World Through Teaching And Example

Col 4:5 Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity.

Col 4:6 Let your speech always be with grace, *as though* seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

Influence World Through Teaching And Example

1Pe 3:14 But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED,

1Pe 3:15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

Influence World Through Teaching And Example

1Co 10:27 If one of the unbelievers invites you and you want to go, eat anything that is set before you without asking questions for conscience' sake.

1Co 10:28 But if anyone says to you, "This is meat sacrificed to idols," do not eat *it,* for the sake of the one who informed *you,* and for conscience' sake;

Influence World Through Teaching And Example

1Co 10:29 I mean not your own conscience, but the other *man's;* for why is my freedom judged by another's conscience?

1Co 10:30 If I partake with thankfulness, why am I slandered concerning that for which I give thanks?

1Co 10:31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Influence World Through Teaching And Example

1Co 10:32 Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God;

1Co 10:33 just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit but the *profit* of the many, so that they may be saved.

Teach And Apply The Word In Our Families

- Over the years, many Christians have tried to shift their responsibility of teaching their children the Bible to the local church
- Although a local church may play a part in this, it does not take place of this family duty
- The Lord has always demanded of families to lead their children in the way of righteousness

Teach And Apply The Word In Our Families

Deu 6:4 "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!

Deu 6:5 "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Deu 6:6 "These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart.

Teach And Apply The Word In Our Families

Deu 6:7 "You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

Deu 6:8 "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead.

Deu 6:9 "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

Teach And Apply The Word In Our Families

Psa 78:1 **A Maskil of Asaph.** Listen, O my people, to my instruction; Incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

Psa 78:2 I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old,

Psa 78:3 Which we have heard and known, And our fathers have told us.

Teach And Apply The Word In Our Families

Psa 78:4 We will not conceal them from their children, But tell to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wondrous works that He has done.

Psa 78:5 For He established a testimony in Jacob And appointed a law in Israel, Which He commanded our fathers That they should teach them to their children,

Teach And Apply The Word In Our Families

Psa 78:6 That the generation to come might know, *even* the children *yet* to be born, *That* they may arise and tell *them* to their children,

Psa 78:7 That they should put their confidence in God And not forget the works of God, But keep His commandments,

Teach And Apply The Word In Our Families

Psa 78:8 And not be like their fathers, A stubborn and rebellious generation, A generation that did not prepare its heart And whose spirit was not faithful to God.

Teach And Apply The Word In Our Families

Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Eph 6:2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise),

Teach And Apply The Word In Our Families

Eph 6:3 SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

Eph 6:4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Teach And Apply The Word In Our Families

2Ti 1:5 For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that *it is* in you as well.

2Ti 3:14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them,*

Teach And Apply The Word In Our Families

2Ti 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Teach And Apply The Word In Our Families

1Ti 3:2 An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

1Ti 3:4 *He must be* one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity

1Ti 3:5 (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?),

Work For The Maturing Of Christians

- Christians are to work by word and deed in building up other Christians in the truth so that spiritual growth may be promoted among all
- Generally, we speak the truth in love to all members encouraging mature faith
- We must always guard against raising private opinion to the level of faith

Work For The Maturing Of Christians

Eph 4:15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,

Eph 4:29 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.

Work For The Maturing Of Christians

1Th 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

Work For The Maturing Of Christians

Rom 14:1 Now accept the one who is weak in faith, *but* not for *the purpose of* passing judgment on his opinions.

Rom 14:2 One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables *only.*

Work For The Maturing Of Christians

Rom 14:3 The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him.

Rom 14:5 One person regards one day above another, another regards every day *alike.* Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind.

Work For The Maturing Of Christians

Rom 14:13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this--not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.

Rom 14:15 For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died.

Work For The Maturing Of Christians

Rom 14:16 Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil;

Rom 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Rom 14:19 So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another.

Work For The Maturing Of Christians

Rom 14:20 Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are clean, but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense.

Rom 14:21 It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or *to do anything* by which your brother stumbles.

Work For The Maturing Of Christians

Rom 14:22 The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves.

Rom 14:23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because *his eating is* not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.

The Individual Christian And Edification

Influence world through teaching and example

Teach and apply the Word in our families

Work for the maturing of Christians

The Local Church And Edification

Local church edification work authorized

Who is responsible for edifying the local church?

How is the local church to edify itself?

Local Church Edification Work Authorized

- The local church is commanded to edify itself with the truth
- Purpose of edification is for equipping of saints to live the Christian life
- How local churches do their edification work is determined by the New Testament pattern
- To depart from this pattern is sinful

Local Church Edification Work Authorized

Eph 4:11 And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers,

Eph 4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

Local Church Edification Work Authorized

Eph 4:13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

Eph 4:14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

Local Church Edification Work Authorized

Eph 4:15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,

Eph 4:16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

Local Church Edification Work Authorized

1Co 14:26 What is *the outcome* then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

Who Is Responsible For Edifying The Local Church?

Apostles and prophets

Evangelists

Pastors (elders)

Teachers

All saints

Apostles And Prophets

- Guided by the Holy Spirit, these men spoke and wrote the Word of God, the New Testament
- In order to properly edify one another, we must faithfully follow the apostles' teaching
- They completely revealed and confirmed by miracles the New Testament
- No need for miraculous confirmation today

Apostles And Prophets

Joh 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

Joh 16:13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

Apostles And Prophets

1Co 2:10 For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

1Co 2:11 For who among men knows the *thoughts* of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the *thoughts* of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

Apostles And Prophets

1Co 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,

1Co 2:13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words.*

Apostles And Prophets

Eph 3:3 that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief.

Eph 3:4 By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,

Apostles And Prophets

Eph 3:5 which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;

Eph 3:6 *to be specific,* that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,

Apostles And Prophets

Heb 2:3 how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,

Heb 2:4 God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

Apostles And Prophets

Jud 1:3 Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

Apostles And Prophets

1Co 13:8 Love never fails; but if *there are gifts of* prophecy, they will be done away; if *there are* tongues, they will cease; if *there is* knowledge, it will be done away.

1Co 13:9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part;

1Co 13:10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.

Apostles And Prophets

Eph 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,

Eph 2:20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone,*

Apostles And Prophets

Act 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

2Th 2:15 So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word *of mouth* or by letter from us.

Apostles And Prophets

Gal 1:8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!

Evangelists

- One who preaches the gospel to the lost
- One who also teaches Christians sound doctrine
- Evangelists are always men in New Testament
- Examples of evangelists are Philip, Timothy and Titus among others

Evangelists

Act 21:8 On the next day we left and came to Caesarea, and entering the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, we stayed with him.

Act 8:5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and *began* proclaiming Christ to them.

Evangelists

1Ti 1:3 As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus so that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines,

1Ti 1:4 nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than *furthering* the administration of God which is by faith.

Evangelists

2Ti 4:1 I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:

2Ti 4:2 preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

Evangelists

2Ti 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,

2Ti 4:4 and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

2Ti 4:5 But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Pastors (Elders)

- Must be men meeting qualification laid down in 1 Tim. 3 and Titus 1
- Oversee work, worship and edification of a local church
- Feed the local church through teaching the Word, sermons and Bible classes
- Guard the local church against false teachers from without and errors from within

Pastors (Elders)

ACT 20:28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

ACT 20:29 "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;

Pastors (Elders)

ACT 20:30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

ACT 20:31 "Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.

Pastors (Elders)

ACT 20:32 "And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

Pastors (Elders)

1TI 3:2 An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach,

1TI 3:4 He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity

1TI 3:5 (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?),

Pastors (Elders)

TIT 1:9 holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.

TIT 1:10 ¶ For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision,

Pastors (Elders)

TIT 1:11 who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain.

Teachers

- Both men and women who teach the Word
- Because women are not allowed to teach over men, then women must either teach other women or children
- Most local churches have class arrangements where the church can be divided into classes where the Word can be taught

Teachers

2Ti 2:2 The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

Teachers

Tit 2:3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good,

Tit 2:4 so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,

Teachers

Tit 2:5 *to be* sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

Teachers

1Ti 2:11 A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness.

1Ti 2:12 But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.

Teachers

1Ti 2:13 For it was Adam who was first created, *and* then Eve.

1Ti 2:14 And *it was* not Adam *who* was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.

All Saints

- As each individual member does their part in speaking, receiving and applying the truth, they grow spiritually
- Also, they help the church (body) grow numerically as they progress in all areas including evangelizing the lost

All Saints

Eph 4:14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;

Eph 4:15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,

All Saints

Eph 4:16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

All Saints

Rom 12:1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.

Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

All Saints

Rom 12:3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

Rom 12:4 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function,

All Saints

Rom 12:5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Rom 12:6 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to exercise them accordingly:* if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;

All Saints

Rom 12:7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching;

Rom 12:8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Rom 12:9 *Let* love *be* without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.

All Saints

Rom 12:10 *Be* devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

Rom 12:11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;

Rom 12:12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,

Rom 12:13 contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

How Is The Local Church To Edify Itself?

Source of all edification, the Bible

Worship assemblies

Organized Bible classes

Discipline of rebellious members

Special gospel meetings and classes

Encourage members to be active in love and good works

Source Of All Edification, The Bible

- We must always remember that the only source for spiritual growth is the Word
- Old Testament encourages our faith and New Testament specifically guides individual and local church actions
- It is sufficient for us as a means to building us up in faith so we can do all good works He commands of us
- Unauthorized edification methods happen when we doubt sufficiency of the Word

Source Of All Edification, The Bible

Rom 15:4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

ACT 20:32 "And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

Source Of All Edification, The Bible

2Ti 3:14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them,*

2Ti 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Source Of All Edification, The New Testament

2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

2Ti 3:17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Worship Assemblies

- We are commanded to worship in spirit and in truth
- To worship means to prostrate ourselves before God in reverence
- Because God is the one worthy of our worship, He is the only one who determines how we should worship Him
- In the New Testament, we see how the local church worshipped Him

Worship In Spirit And Truth

Do what He commands and with a willing, humble attitude

Joh 4:23 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

Joh 4:24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Worship Assemblies

Heb 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;

Heb 10:24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,

Heb 10:25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another;* and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Worship Assemblies

Partake of Lord's supper

Preach Word of God

Pray

Sing spiritual songs without instruments

Contribute to help needy saints and support preachers

Partake Of Lord’s Supper

Act 20:7 On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul *began* talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight.

Partake Of Lord’s Supper

1Co 11:23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread;

1Co 11:24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

Partake Of Lord’s Supper

1Co 11:25 In the same way *He took* the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it,* in remembrance of Me."

1Co 11:26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Preach Word Of God

Act 20:7 On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul *began* talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight.

Preach Word Of God

1Co 14:26 What is *the outcome* then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

Pray

Act 12:5 So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God.

Sing Spiritual Songs Without Instruments

Eph 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Contribute To Help Needy Saints And Support Preachers

1Co 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also.

1Co 16:2 On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

Contribute To Help Needy Saints And Support Preachers

2Co 11:8 I robbed other churches by taking wages *from them* to serve you;

2Co 11:9 and when I was present with you and was in need, I was not a burden to anyone; for when the brethren came from Macedonia they fully supplied my need, and in everything I kept myself from being a burden to you, and will continue to do so.

Organized Bible Classes

- Jesus commanded that we baptize disciples of all nations
- He also commanded we teach them all He commanded, the apostles teaching
- There is no mention of “how” this is to be done but because a local church is to be independent, it must provide some way for members to be taught the Word so they may grow in grace and knowledge of Christ

Organized Bible Classes

- Therefore, many local churches have concluded they should organize Bible classes, dividing the congregation into different age groups
- Also, there might be groups divided according to sex (men or women), level of maturity (babes in Christ compared to the matured Christians)
- Classrooms, material and teachers are provided overseen by the elders

Organized Bible Classes

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Mat 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Mat 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Organized Bible Classes

Act 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Organized Bible Classes

Tit 2:3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good,

Tit 2:4 so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children,

Organized Bible Classes

Tit 2:5 *to be* sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored.

Discipline Of Rebellious Members

- After private and public teaching fails, local churches must discipline unfaithful members
- This involves publicly recognizing member as being not in fellowship with God or with the local church
- Members should lovingly admonish them to repent but not socially interact with them
- Goal – prevent sin from spreading and save the wayward member

Discipline Of Rebellious Members

Mat 18:15 "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.

Mat 18:16 "But if he does not listen *to you,* take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED.

Discipline Of Rebellious Members

Mat 18:17 "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

Discipline Of Rebellious Members

1Co 5:1 It is actually reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has his father's wife.

1Co 5:2 You have become arrogant and have not mourned instead, so that the one who had done this deed would be removed from your midst.

Discipline Of Rebellious Members

1Co 5:3 For I, on my part, though absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged him who has so committed this, as though I were present.

1Co 5:4 In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus,

Discipline Of Rebellious Members

1Co 5:5 *I have decided* to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

1Co 5:6 Your boasting is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump *of dough?*

Discipline Of Rebellious Members

2Th 3:6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us.

2Th 3:10 For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.

Discipline Of Rebellious Members

2Th 3:14 If anyone does not obey our instruction in this letter, take special note of that person and do not associate with him, so that he will be put to shame.

2Th 3:15 *Yet* do not regard him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

Discipline Of Rebellious Members

Rom 16:17 Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them.

Rom 16:18 For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.

Discipline Of Rebellious Members

Tit 3:10 Reject a factious man after a first and second warning,

Tit 3:11 knowing that such a man is perverted and is sinning, being self-condemned.

Discipline Of Rebellious Members

2Jn 1:9 Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.

2Jn 1:10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into *your* house, and do not give him a greeting;

Discipline Of Rebellious Members

2Jn 1:11 for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.

Special Gospel Meetings And Classes

- Local churches may plan and conduct specially scheduled gospel meetings inviting preachers to teach on various Bible subjects
- These meetings may be either designed to appeal to the lost to obey the gospel or to Christians to become more mature in the Word
- They can also plan and conduct special classes on various subjects

Special Gospel Meetings And Classes

Act 2:46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,

Act 19:9 But when some were becoming hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way before the people, he withdrew from them and took away the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus.

Encourage Members To Be Active In Love And Good Works

- Goal of New Testament teaching done by the local church is to mature the saints so they can actively serve by engaging in whatever good works the Lord has commanded them to do
- The local church may actively encourage its members to evangelize the lost, restore unfaithful saints, visit and serve saints in physical need

Encourage Members To Be Active In Love And Good Works

- The local church is not to collectively assume responsibility for the good works individual saints should be doing
- Teaching the gospel is enough for Christians to be encouraged to do what is right without the aid of any human organization that receives funds from local churches

Encourage Members To Be Active In Love And Good Works

Eph 4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

Eph 4:13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

Encourage Members To Be Active In Love And Good Works

Eph 4:15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,

2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

2Ti 3:17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Encourage Members To Be Active In Love And Good Works

Heb 10:24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,

Heb 10:25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another;* and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

How Is The Local Church To Edify Itself?

Source of all edification, the Bible

Worship assemblies

Organized Bible classes

Discipline of rebellious members

Special gospel meetings and classes

Encourage members to be active in love and good works

Things We See In The New Testament Pattern

- Local church responsible to oversee its own edification work
- Local church to fund its own edification work
- Purpose of edification is spiritual maturity of saints not social advancement
- Means of edification are spiritual not social or worldly

Things We See In The New Testament Pattern

- Local churches did not provide secular education to members by establishing and running their own schools
- Local churches did not use human institutions such as colleges to edify members
- Local churches did not use social gospel to edify members

The Local Church And Edification

- If all were content with this pattern for edification, there would be no need for next section of lesson
- Many brethren have departed from this pattern
- We look at how they depart and their reasons for doing so
- Compare their departures with the New Testament pattern for edification

The Social Gospel

- An error that emphasizes the physical and social desires of people above the spiritual needs, forgiveness of sins and remaining faithful to Jesus
- Local church makes these worldly desires a priority by providing facilities and funds for social, recreational and entertainment activities to be enjoyed by the world and members

The Social Gospel

- Although the local church has no authority to fund and provide for the social desires of the world and its members, we do recognize that Christians have authority to be together in social settings and activities such as having meals together and participating in recreational activities
- However, these are to be funded by individuals and not to be emphasized above the gospel

Christians Should Be Together Socially

Act 2:41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

Act 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Act 2:43 Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.

Christians Should Be Together Socially

Act 2:44 And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common;

Act 2:45 and they *began* selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.

Act 2:46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,

Christians Should Be Together Socially

Act 2:47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Christians Should Be Together Socially

Mar 10:28 Peter began to say to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You."

Mar 10:29 Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake,

Christians Should Be Together Socially

Mar 10:30 but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life.

The New Testament Says Nothing About…

Social gospel practices

- Local church funding and operating secular schools
- Local churches funding colleges
- Local church providing meals, entertainment and recreation
- Local church promoting politics
- Local church providing innovations in worship

Local Church Funding And Operating Secular Schools

- Many churches of Christ have established their own secular schools ranging from kindergarten through high school
- They provide facilities, materials and teachers to educate students not only in Bible classes but also in secular subjects
- They justify their funding and oversight of these schools on the grounds of providing a Christian environment for education along with Bible classes

Local Church Funding And Operating Secular Schools

- An example of this is the Lewisville Christian School operated by the Garden Ridge Church of Christ, Lewisville, TX
- Secular and Bible classes are provided to pre-school and kindergarten students
- They also provide daycare services for children below pre-school age

Why Is This Wrong?

- Secular education and daycare are not works of the local church
- These are individual responsibilities
- The work of the local church is to preach the gospel, edify its members in the Word and help needy saints
- Local churches are to do this work themselves overseeing their own decisions and using their own funds

Local Church Not To Be Burdened With Individual Duties

1Ti 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1Ti 5:16 If any woman who is a believer has *dependent* widows, she must assist them and the church must not be burdened, so that it may assist those who are widows indeed.

Work Of Local Church

Preach the gospel to the lost

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Mat 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Work Of Local Church

Edify members by teaching the Word

Mat 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Work Of Local Church

Edify members by teaching the Word

Eph 4:11 And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers,

Eph 4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

Work Of Local Church

Edify members by teaching the Word

Eph 4:13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

Work Of Local Church

Providing care for needy saints

1Co 16:1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also.

1Co 16:2 On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

Local Oversight And Local Treasury

- Local churches are not authorized to let colleges oversee and make decision regarding their edification work or any other work
- Local churches are not authorized to contribute to the centralized treasury of a human organization such as a college or any other organization

Local Oversight And Local Treasury

Act 20:28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

1Co 16:2 On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

Local Churches Funding Colleges

- Similar to last points about pre-college schools but usually involves funding colleges and not overseeing their operations
- Examples of some college include Harding University in Arkansas, Oklahoma Christian University, Abilene Christian University in Texas

Local Churches Funding Colleges

- Churches again justify financially supporting colleges because they provide a Christian environment for young people and they also train preachers
- An example of this support is Blue Ridge Church of Christ, Fishersville, VA, offering scholarship money to students attending one of these “Christian” colleges to be trained as a preacher

Why Is This Wrong?

- Secular education is not a work of the local church
- This is a work of individual Christians
- Local churches have no collective work together

Why Is This Wrong?

- The local church is to edify its own members by teaching the Word of God
- Local churches are to do this work themselves overseeing their own decisions and using their own funds

Local Church Is Not To Be Burdened With Individual Duties

1Ti 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1Ti 5:16 If any woman who is a believer has *dependent* widows, she must assist them and the church must not be burdened, so that it may assist those who are widows indeed.

Local Churches Have No Collective Work Together

- Local churches are not authorized to work in a centralized manner as if they are one local church
- Universal church is composed of individual Christians not groups of local churches

Local Churches Have No Collective Work Together

1Co 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Local Church Must Edify Itself Through Teaching The Word

- Simple point – colleges are not local churches
- God gave the work of edification to local churches to do, not colleges or any other human organization

Local Church Must Edify itself Through Teaching The Word

Mat 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

2Ti 2:2 The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

Local Oversight And Local Treasury

- Local churches are not authorized to let colleges oversee and make decision regarding their edification work or any other work
- Local churches are not authorized to contribute to the centralized treasury of a human organization such as a college or any other organization

Local Oversight And Local Treasury

Act 20:28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

1Co 16:2 On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

Local Church Providing Meals, Entertainment And Recreation

- Local churches providing money, facilities and materials for social activities
- These would include kitchens, fellowship halls where meals can be served and family life centers for entertainment and athletic events
- Justification - these things help attract the lost to hear the gospel and they provide "fellowship" occasions for members

Local Church Providing Meals, Entertainment And Recreation

- An example of these practices is found with the Poplar Springs Church of Christ, King, NC
- Quoting from their Web site, "Our Family Life Center offers a gym, kitchen, fellowship hall, and office space for our church staff."

Local Church Providing Meals, Entertainment And Recreation

- An example of these practices is found with the Albany Church of Christ, Albany, NY
- Used church building for 2007 youth rally that included a talent show with acts showcasing talent in music, drama, comedy and other areas
- Along with talent show, meals, recreation and other entertainment was provided

Why Is This Wrong?

- Perverts purpose of Lord's money used to buy or rent place of assembling
- Providing meals, entertainment and recreation are not the work of local church
- These things are to be provided by individual Christians
- Distortion of the meaning of fellowship
- Failure to make distinctions between spiritual and purely social activities

Authority For Spending Lord's Money On Place To Assemble

- As a local church, we are commanded to assemble to worship and edify one another through the Word of God
- As an expedient, we choose a place where we will assemble, buying or renting space
- With that space provided by the Lord's money, we only have authority to do those things we are authorized to do together, worship and edification

Authority For Spending Lord's Money On Place To Assemble

- Although the space itself is not holy, the authority that allows us to buy or purchase space with the Lord's money limits us to use it for authorized purposes
- Therefore, to use it for things other than worship and edification, is unauthorized
- Social activities should be conducted and funded by individual Christians, not from the church treasury

Authority For Spending Lord's Money On Place To Assemble

Heb 10:24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,

Heb 10:25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another;* and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Local Church Is Not To Be Burdened With Individual Duties

1Ti 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1Ti 5:16 If any woman who is a believer has *dependent* widows, she must assist them and the church must not be burdened, so that it may assist those who are widows indeed.

Fellowship

Greek word "koinonia" means "communion, fellowship, sharing in common.."

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words

The word is used to show Christians sharing with God and Christians sharing with each other but never Christians sharing with non-Christians

Fellowship In New Testament

2Co 6:14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what <u>partnership</u> have righteousness and lawlessness, or what <u>fellowship</u> has light with darkness?

Act 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to <u>fellowship</u>, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Fellowship In New Testament

1Jn 1:5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

1Jn 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and *yet* walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

1Jn 1:7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

There Is A Difference Between Spiritual And Social Matters

- Notice that Paul rebukes the Corinthian church for not recognizing the difference between spiritual and social matters
- They were making a social meal out of the Lord's supper
- His solution, eat in your own houses
- Priority of the Lord's church is to teach the lost and edify the saints not providing social activities for members

There Is A Difference Between Spiritual And Social Matters

1Co 11:22 What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise you.

1Co 11:34 If anyone is hungry, let him eat at home, so that you will not come together for judgment. The remaining matters I will arrange when I come.

There Is A Difference Between Spiritual And Social Matters

Act 2:46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,

The Lord's Supper – Our True Fellowship Meal

1Co 10:16 Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ?

1Co 10:17 Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread.

There Is a Difference Between Spiritual And Social Matters

Joh 6:26 Jesus answered them and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.

Joh 6:27 "Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal."

There Is a Difference Between Spiritual And Social Matters

Joh 6:28 Therefore they said to Him, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?"

Joh 6:29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

There Is a Difference Between Spiritual And Social Matters

- If the Lord's money can be used to purchase a building where we have dinners and entertainment, then can we purchase movie theaters, ice cream shops, job training centers and so on?
- The denominations have been doing these things for a long time without authority
- Churches of Christ have simply followed them in practicing these errors

Local Church Promoting Politics

- Some local churches have gone so far as to promote politics using their facilities and resources to do so
- For example, the Kings Church of Christ in Brooklyn, NY invited its members and the lost to view a "politically" motivated movie that has nothing to do with the gospel of Christ

Local Church Promoting Politics

Why Is This Wrong?

- Perverts purpose of Lord's money used to buy or rent place of assembling
- Providing political activities is not the work of the local church
- These things are to be provided by individual Christians
- Failure to distinguish between spiritual and purely political activities

Authority For Spending Lord's Money On Place To Assemble

Heb 10:24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,

Heb 10:25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another;* and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Local Church Has No Political Work

Joh 18:36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."

Rom 13:1 Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

Local Church Is Not To Be Burdened With Individual Duties

1Ti 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1Ti 5:16 If any woman who is a believer has *dependent* widows, she must assist them and the church must not be burdened, so that it may assist those who are widows indeed.

Local Church Providing Innovations In Worship

- Motivated by attracting greater numbers and making worship more lively and interesting, brethren have introduced a variety of unauthorized innovations
- Some include children's worship (playtime, babysitting and games for children separated form the regular assembly), singing groups, hand clapping and so on

Why Is This Wrong?

- The Lord has told us how we must worship Him in spirit and in truth
- See slides 97-110 and review how we are to worship
- These innovations go beyond what the New Testament says making them unauthorized
- We use the same reasoning to reject instrumental music in worship

The New Testament Says Nothing About…

Social gospel practices

- Local church funding and operating secular schools
- Local churches funding colleges
- Local church providing meals, entertainment and recreation
- Local church promoting politics
- Local church providing innovations in worship

What We Have Learned In This Lesson

What is edification?

Individual Christian and edification

The local church and edification

The New Testament says nothing abou…

What Is Edification?

Edification means to build up a person spiritually through teaching and application of the Word of God

The Individual Christian And Edification

Influence world through teaching and example

Teach and apply the Word in our families

Work for the maturing of Christians

The Local Church And Edification

Local church edification work authorized

Who is responsible for edifying the local church?

How is the local church to edify itself?

Who Is Responsible For Edifying The Local Church?

Apostles and prophets

Evangelists

Pastors (elders)

Teachers

All saints

How Is The Local Church To Edify Itself?

Source of all edification, the Bible

Worship assemblies

Organized Bible classes

Discipline of rebellious members

Special gospel meetings and classes

Encourage members to be active in love and good works

The New Testament Says Nothing About…

Social gospel practices

- Local church funding and operating secular schools
- Local churches funding colleges
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