

# The Power of Edification

Our Priorities: Love God, Love one another, Live the mission

Current series: Love one another (John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you...")

## HOW TO love one another:

1. Love Jesus
2. Befriend the confused
3. Esteem one another
4. Edify one another (Today's sermon)

## Why do I say the stuff I say?

**Matthew 12:33** "Either make the tree good, and its fruit good; or make the tree bad, and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit.

<sup>34</sup> "You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.

<sup>35</sup> "The good man out of *his* good treasure brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of *his* evil treasure brings forth what is evil.

<sup>36</sup> "And I say to you, that every careless word that men shall speak, they shall render account for it in the day of judgment.

<sup>37</sup> "For by your words you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned."

## So, what can I do?

**James 3:1** Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we shall incur a stricter judgment.

<sup>2</sup> For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.

<sup>3</sup> Now if we put the bits into the horses' mouths so that they may obey us, we direct their entire body as well.

<sup>4</sup> Behold, the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder, wherever the inclination of the pilot desires.

<sup>5</sup> So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things. Behold, how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire!

<sup>6</sup> And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of *our* life, and is set on fire by hell.

<sup>7</sup> For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed, and has been tamed by the human race.

<sup>8</sup> But no one can tame the tongue; *it is* a restless evil and full of deadly poison.

<sup>9</sup> With it we bless *our* Lord and Father; and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God;

<sup>10</sup> from the same mouth come *both* blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.

## **Harness the power of the tongue.**

**Proverbs 18:21** Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

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

<sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

<sup>13</sup> 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 fulness of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> 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;

<sup>15</sup> but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him, who is the head, *even* Christ,

<sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which 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.

**Ephesians 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*, that it may give grace to those who hear.

**Ephesians 5:18** And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

<sup>19</sup> speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;

<sup>20</sup> always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

**Hebrews 3:12** Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God.

<sup>13</sup> But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called "Today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

<sup>14</sup> For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end;

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

<sup>25</sup> 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.

<sup>26</sup> For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

## **Experience the power especially when being trashed.**

**Galatians 2:20** "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.

**Proverbs 19:11** A man's discretion makes him slow to anger, And it is his glory to overlook a transgression.

**Luke 6:26** "Woe *to you* when all men speak well of you, for in the same way their fathers used to treat the false prophets.

<sup>27</sup> "But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,

<sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

**1 Peter 3:8** To sum up, let all be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit;

<sup>9</sup> not returning evil for evil, or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing.

<sup>10</sup> For, "Let him who means to love life and see good days Refrain his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking guile.

<sup>11</sup> "And let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it.

<sup>12</sup> "For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, And His ears attend to their prayer, But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

**Romans 12:14** Bless those who persecute you; bless and curse not.

<sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

<sup>16</sup> Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly.

Do not be wise in your own estimation.

<sup>17</sup> Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men.

<sup>18</sup> If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

<sup>19</sup> Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

<sup>20</sup> "But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head."

<sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**Colossians 4:6** Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, *as it were*, with salt, so that you may know how you should respond to each person.

## **Note: Don't confuse edification with flattery**

**Proverbs 26:1** ...a flattering mouth works ruin.

**Proverbs 29:5** A man who flatters his neighbor Is spreading a net for his steps.

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