

Edifying Others 7/24/2021 WNCD Adult Class

On May 6, 2021 there was a cyberattack on the Colonial Pipeline. This 5,500-mile pipeline runs along the East Coast from Texas to New Jersey and provides approximately 50% of the needed fuel for the Atlantic Coast. Data from the information systems were stolen because of a malware attack. The public was not informed until a few days later. I was made aware of it when I received a telephone call from my husband instructing me to fill up both vehicles because of the probable shortage of fuel. He didn't know all the details, but his focus was on getting the gas tanks filled. He had a heightened sense of urgency in his voice and I asked him, "are you panicking?" He defensively answered "no". I then proceeded to ask him what were we going to do once the tanks got low again...you can imagine how this conversation ended. Amidst our President and government leaders asking us not to panic and run to the gas pumps to hoard gasoline, many states ran out of gasoline due to hoarding. I vividly remember seeing people filling up plastic bags of gasoline and putting them in the trunks of their cars. There were also instances of price gouging. In a society where every man is for himself, can there be opportunity to edify others? Let's explore some ways we can do this.

*One: When we edify others, it is easy to **empathize** with them. Romans 15:1-6.*

1: We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

2: Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification.

3: For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me".

4: For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

5: Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus,

6: that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Questions

- 1) Does empathizing with others involve head knowledge and not necessarily emotional engagement?
- 2) Can you think of any Scriptures that display the empathy that the Lord has for us?

Two: When we edify others, we are able to **elevate** them in word and deed!

Christian unity is relentlessly discussed in the Bible. The book of Philippians is no exception to this very important topic. Elevation of Jesus, the Lover of our Souls and each other is the model given to the Philippian church by the Apostle Paul.

Phil. 2:1-8

- 1: Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love. If any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy,
- 2: fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.
- 3: Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.
- 4: Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.
- 5: Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,
- 6: who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,
- 7: but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.
- 8: And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Questions

- 1) How difficult is it for you to complement your brothers and sister?
- 2) How would one know there are ulterior motives to another's word or deed?

Three: When we wholeheartedly seek to edify others, we **encourage** them in good times and in the bad times. I Thessalonians 5:6-11.

6: Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.

7: For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night.

8: But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.

9: For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

10: who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep we should live together with Him.

11: Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

Questions

1) Contrast the child of the light and day with the child of the night and darkness.

2) Discuss some ways the church body can encourage one another. Is it the responsibility of a distinct group in the church?

Edification is defined as the instruction or improvement of a person morally or intellectually. You are challenged in the upcoming week to seek out people that you can edify. What gifts or talents do you have that you could use to impart to or instruct another brother or sister? How can you leave them better than you found them? Make it a goal to impact at least one person daily in a positive, godly way!