Peace and Edification: Powerful Combination
Rom. 14:19

Introduction:
A. God arranged Christians into groups for cooperation and edification.
   1. Groups called “churches”–well call them local churches or congregations.
   2. To jointly support preaching and needy saints. (Phil. 4:13ff; 1 Tim. 5:16).
   3. To mutually edify (teach, support, encourage, comfort) each other.
B. Congregation's effectiveness depends on much needed combination of our text.
   1. Disruptive influences to be eliminated. (1 Cor. 5; Tit 3:10)
   2. Can have peace without edification, but hard to have edification without peace.

Discussion:
I. Peace
   A. We need to maintain peaceful minds. (Phil. 4:6-9).
      1. Such are in position to be helpful to others.
      2. Such is possible with effort and care on our part.
         a. If it is a medical problem–get medical help.
         b. If it is a spiritual problem–get spiritual help.
            (1) Turn anxieties over to Lord. (vs. 6-7).
            (2) Meditate on good things. (vs. 8-9).
   B. We need to maintain peaceful meetings. (1 Cor. 14:33,34).
      1. Worship assemblies.
      2. Bible Classes.
   C. We need to maintain peaceful relations. (Eph. 2:14-22)
      1. With God and one another through Christ.
      2. With one another through longsuffering, etc. (Eph. 4:3; Rom. 15:1-3).

II. Edification
   A. We are edified by sound doctrine. (Eph. 4:12-16).
      1. Special responsibility of elders and preachers. (2 Tim. 3:16-4:4; Tit. 1:9-13)
      2. Some responsibility upon every member. (Tit. 2:1-8).
   B. We are edified by pure speech. (Eph. 4:29).
      1. Wholesome speech that promotes high standard of morality and spirituality.
      2. Truth as relates to events and Biblical truth.
   C. We are edified by love action. (1 Cor. 8:1).
      1. Some things that are lawful do not always edify. (1 Cor. 10:23).
      2. Some things take precedent over lawful rights–love for brethren.
         a. May need to yield rights for sake of peace and edification. (1 Cor. 9).
         b. May need to submit our judgment to judgment of others.
         c. May need to be patient with certain scruples of others. (Rom. 15:1,2).

Conclusion:
A. It takes effort to build one another up in the faith.
   1. To do so each needs to follow things that make for peace.
   2. To do so each needs to follow things that edify each other.
B. It takes all the help, teaching and encouragement we can get to make it.
   1. We need to work to keep congregation in position to give such.
   2. We need to work to take advantage of what congregational arrangement offers.