Things By Which One May Edify Another
Romans 14:19

Introduction:

A. A time to tear down, a time to build up. (Eccl. 3:3 NIV)
   1. Sometimes must tear down in order to build.
      b. Cast down imaginations. (2 Cor. 10:4-6).
   2. Cannot spend all our tearing down.
      a. Many are stay on “wrecking crew”.
      b. Not happy building, just need something to tear down.
   3. Need to edify one another.
      a. “Edify” means to build up (cf. “Edifice”)
      b. Individually — “One may edify another” (Rom. 14:17).
      c. Collectively — “Edify the body...” (Eph. 4:12).

B. Bible speaks of several things by which one may edify another.

Discussion:

I. **There Are Words By Which We May Edify Another.** (cf. Prov. 25:11).
   A. The truth edifies. (Eph. 4:15-16).
      1. Matures and stabilizes. (v. 14)
      2. Other doctrines do not edify. (1 Tim. 1:3,4).
   B. Pure words edify (Eph. 4:29).
      1. Indecent words tear down.
      2. Deceitful words tear down.
      3. Lying words tear down.
   C. Plain words edify (1 Cor. 14:19).
      1. Plainness does not mean rudeness.
      2. Plainness does not mean harshness.

II. **There Is Love By Which We May Edify Another.** (1 Cor. 8:1)
   A. Love keeps knowledgeable people from becoming arrogant.
   B. Love keeps does not seek its own (1 Cor. 13:5)
      1. Does not seek own rights at expense of others. (1 Cor. 10:23-24).
      2. Will not exercise lawful right (not obligation), if tears down another.

III. **There Is Peace By Which We May Edify Another.** (Rom. 14:19; Acts 9:31).
    A. Peaceful relationships. (1 Thess. 5:13).
       1. Be considerate of one another’s feelings and scruples where possible. (Rom. 14).
       2. Be longsuffering and forebearing where possible. (Eph. 4:3,4).
    B. Peaceful meetings. (1 Cor. 14:33,40).

IV. **There Is Participation By Which We May Edify Another.** (Eph. 4:16).
    A. Participation builds up whole body.
    B. Participation of reduces friction.
    C. Participation means cooperation.
       1. First there must be “operation”.
       2. Then, there is “co-operation”.

Conclusion:

A. Let us tear down error, but build up the body of Christ.
B. Are we building up this congregation pulling it down?