

December 24, 2023

Building Up One Another

by Rickie Jenkins

Building people to be one takes deliberate effort. Building requires every part making a contribution to the whole (Eph. 4:16). It is not impossible. Growing to be one is a by-product of transformation. As each one seeks to attain a measure of the fullness of Christ the by-product is one heart, soul and mind.

First, find the good in people. We must have eyes that look past the surface and see past the flaws of each other. While we cannot literally see the heart of another, we must strive to see their heart. Pay attention to the growth of one another. Find improvement in each other. Learn where people came from, that is their history, in order to appreciate where they are now. Find good in the times we assemble together. Let those times be times we are refreshed by each other. Everybody has something good we can notice.

Second, complement one another. When we look for the good in each other it is easier to find things we can compliment. Yes, there is much to compliment. Also, when we compliment it makes us feel much better about ourselves. So notice the flow. When we compliment the good in each other the person we complimented is encouraged. As we compliment another we are encouraged by what we did for another (2 Cor. 1:2-4). Instead of making the picture as bad as we can, make it as

good as we can. Look for something you like. Now magnify those things. Be as uplifting as we can be. Tell others about the good in one another.

Third, be compassionate with one another. The word compassion is a compound word. It combines "com" or with, and "passion" or suffer. Passion in its purest sense, the willingness to suffer for what we love. Compassion enables us to feel with each other. The emphasis is not on "feel" but "with." Compassion enables us to feel "with." Therefore, we rejoice when another rejoices and we hurt, suffer, when another hurts. Compassion speaks of an intimate relationship with one another. Compassion binds us together. It is a bond not easily broken. Jesus is the ultimate "with" feeler. "This is My commandment, that you love and unselfishly seek the best for another, just as I have loved you. No one has greater love than to lay down his own life for his friends" (John. 15:12-13).

Building takes deliberate effort on the part of us all. Look at how to build up a church: "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ has forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:32).

Transformed into the image of Christ from glory to glory. As we are transformed we bring others with us.

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Ladies' Class - Tuesday, January 9 at 10 a.m.

Memorial Service for Harold Hammons is scheduled for January 13 at 10:30 a.m. at the building

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

Rivers of Living Water

by Brian Beck

“He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” (John 7:38)

God employed the symbol of water flowing through a person when answering Judah’s frustration at His disregard for their fasting. “Why have we fasted,’ they say, ‘and You have not seen?’” (Isaiah 58:3) God answered that their calloused hearts made their worship unacceptable. God counseled “If you take away the yoke (of exploitation) from your midst, the pointing of the finger and speaking wickedness, if you extend your soul to the hungry and satisfy the afflicted soul, then ... the Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your soul in drought ... and you shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.” (9-11)

Jesus offered “living water” to satisfy spiritual thirst and give eternal life. (John 4:14; 7:37) But He also promised the heart so benefited would become a conduit through which would flow “rivers of living water.” (John 7:38) Those who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ would become influenced by His Spirit to the extent they would “let this mind be in (them) that was also in Christ Jesus,” (Phil 2:5) - looking out for the “interest of others.” (4) and “esteeming others better than themselves.”(3) They would “overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:21) and they would let their lights shine to glorify God. (Matt 5:16)

The promise remains for us today. As living water refreshes us, we can effectively minister to others to God’s glory – allowing the rivers of living water to flow through our hearts. In so doing, we’ll be “His own special people, zealous for good works.” (Titus 2:14)

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson’s lymphoma has returned and is suffering cognitive and balance issues.

Dinah Williams continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

Lisa Mullen (Darrell’s sister) is undergoing chemotherapy.

Debbie McMurray is undergoing immunotherapy and has 1 more treatment.

Terry Behrns is recovering at his sister’s home

Syble Hargrove has covid.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,” (Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord’s body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord’s will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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