

Edification (Part 3) Ephesians 4:11–16

oikodome "denotes the act of building," and "is used only figuratively in the N.T., in the sense of edification, the promotion of spiritual growth." (W.E.Vine)

Some Things That Will **Help** Spiritual Growth ...

- ▶ **Right appetite.** 1 Peter 2:2; Matthew 5:6
- ▶ **Right spiritual diet.** John 6:35; Jeremiah 23; Amos 8:11
- ▶ **Proper exercise.** 1 Timothy 4:7; Hebrews 5:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:21–22
- ▶ **Heeding what we hear.** Hebrews 2:1; cf. Matthew 7:24; 13:14ff
- ▶ **Purity of mind and heart.** Proverbs 4:23; 23:7; Matthew 12:34; 15:19; Philipians 2:5

Grace Teaches ... Titus 2:11ff

"For the grace of God hath appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us, to the intent that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly and righteously and godly in this present world."

Deny "*Ungodliness*"

asebeu – General impiety (Romans 1:18ff; Titus 2:12). Without reverence for God Romans 5:6. (Vine's)

- ▶ Must eliminate ALL ungodliness. Colossians 3:5ff
- ▶ Why must we deny ALL ungodliness?
 - God of this world will blind us. 2 Corinthians 4:4
 - Will not inherit the kingdom of heaven. Galatians 5:19ff

Deny "*Worldly Lusts*"

"Worldly" – "of or pertaining to this world," the natural and fleshly realm.

"Lusts" – "Strong desires," especially "strong desires that are evil and grow out of fleshly appetites."

- ▶ Includes:
 - Lust for unholy riches. 1 Timothy 6:6f; Matthew 6:19f
 - Sinful pleasures & evil habits. Hebrews 11:24f
 - All wickedness. Titus 3:3

We must deny ALL UNGODLINESS AND WORLDLY LUSTS. Colossians 3:9; Galatians 5:24

We must live ... "*Soberly*"

sophronos – With sound mind.

- ▶ ... To possess control over one's mind, desires, passions and appetites ... (cf. Titus 2:1,4,6; 1 Thessalonians 5:6,8)
- ▶ **Must THINK RIGHT. 2 Corinthians 10:5; Philipians 4:8**

We must live ... *“Righteously”*

dikaïos – “doing justly” and “the right conduct; of what is right; by the right standard.”

- ▶ Uses of this word.
 - Character and work of God. Psalms 50:6
 - Work and death of Christ. Romans 5:18
 - Revelation of the word of God. Psalms 119:172
 - **Individuals who understand, believe, and DO the will of God. Psalms 23; Acts. 10:35; cf. Romans 10:3 & Matthew 7:21–23**

We must live ... *“Godly”*

eusebos – Piously: ... signifies a devout, pious manner of living.

- ▶ **Fear and reverence of God that must characterize both our attitude and conduct. (Note: Romans 1:18ff and compare Hebrews 11:7; 2 Timothy 3:12)**

Grace Teaches ... Titus 2:11ff

- ▶ **NOTE: No one sleeps his way into heaven.**

Some Things In Which We Should Grow

- ▶ Grace and Knowledge.
- ▶ Christlikeness.
- ▶ Judgment.
- ▶ Character.
- ▶ Spiritual sacrifices.
- ▶ Faith and Love.
- ▶ Ability to serve.

Some Things That **Hinder** Spiritual Growth ...

- ▶ Love of money.
- ▶ Neglect / Indifference.
- ▶ Youthful lusts.
- ▶ Dull of hearing.
- ▶ Negative attitudes.

Some Things That Will **Help** Spiritual Growth ...

- ▶ Right appetite.
- ▶ Right spiritual diet.
- ▶ Proper exercise.
- ▶ Heeding what we hear.
- ▶ Purity of mind and heart.

Edification is **PERSONAL**

- ▶ For the church to grow, we must build up self!!!
- ▶ We grow or we die!!!

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