

MESSAGE

Occasion : Prayer Service / Morning Service (Memorial Sunday) / Prayer Service
Date : November 28, 2013 / December 1, 2013 / June 23, 2016

TITLE : QUALITIES THAT BUILD THE EKKLESIA
Text/s :

Eph 4:7-16

7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.
8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.
9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?
10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)
11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:
13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:
14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;
15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:
16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.
KJV

1 Cor 12:7

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.
KJV

Rom 12:6-21

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;
7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;
8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.
9 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.
10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;
11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;
12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;
13 Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.
14 Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.
15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.
16 Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.
17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.
18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.
19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.
20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.
21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.
KJV

Bible Reading :

Song/s :

INTRODUCTION

What qualities of build the Ekklesia as a whole? What things are to be possessed by everyone in the Ekklesia so others may be edified? What can we all do so we can help edify the brethren and the church as a whole? Is it enough that we are involved and that do our respective responsibilities?

Eph 4:11-12

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:
KJV

What builds the physical body? We know that nutrients and vitamins build the body. It does not necessarily follow that if I can cook, I deliver to you the necessary nutrient and vitamins. I can be a culinary expert and can do all sort of things so food may look good...but if the food does not have nutrient and vitamins, my being an expert will not help you.

We all understand that it is through our involvement in the ministries according to the gifts of God that edification becomes a reality in the Ekklesia. But they are not simply the involvement in the ministries according to gifts --- it is rather according to the qualities that are manifested through the exercise of such gifts.

1 Tim 4:8

8 For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.
KJV

Titus 3:8

8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.
KJV

1 Cor 13:1-3

1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.
2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.
3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.
KJV

1 Cor 14:12

12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.
KJV

1 Cor 14:26

26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.
KJV

It is clear from Paul's words that we do not do according to our abilities and gifts for the benefit of our own selves but for others. All things must be done for the profit of others and for their building up. But they are not the basic act of abilities that build. They are the ones that go with the act.

Rom 12:6-8

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;
7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;
8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.
KJV

A. Prophesying or forth telling according to the degree of proportion of faith. We tell forth the Word of God in proportion to our own faith.

Rom 12:6

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;
KJV

Eph 3:5

5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;
KJV

Phil 1:15-18

15 Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will:
16 The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:
17 But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.
18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.
KJV

Col 1:27-28

27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:
28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:
KJV

2 Tim 4:2

2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.
KJV

Acts 15:32

32 And Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words, and confirmed them.
KJV

Rom 12:3

3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.
KJV

B. Doing service with patient attendance.

Rom 12:7

"... Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering..."

KJV

1 Peter 5:2

2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

KJV

Col 4:17

17 And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.

KJV

Matt 24:45-46

45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

KJV

1 Cor 16:15

15 I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)

KJV

Rom 16:1-2

I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea:

2 That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.

KJV

C. Teaching with the aim to impart knowledge.

Rom 12:7

"...or he that teacheth, on teaching..."

KJV

2 Tim 2:2

2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

KJV

2 Tim 2:24-26

24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

KJV

D. Exhorting with the deep empathy.

Rom 12:8

"... Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation..."

KJV

1 Thess 2:3-4

3 For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile:
4 But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.
KJV

Acts 15:32
32 And Judas and Silas, being prophets also themselves, exhorted the brethren with many words, and confirmed them.
KJV

Heb 10:25
25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.
KJV

1 Tim 4:13
13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.
KJV

E. Giving without self-seeking, bountifully, liberally, with sincerity of love.

Rom 12:8
"... he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity..."
KJV

1 Thess 2:8
8 So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.
KJV

2 Cor 8:2-5
2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.
3 For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves;
4 Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.
5 And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.
KJV

F. Administering with earnest carefulness

Rom 12:8
"...he that ruleth, with diligence..."
KJV

1 Peter 5:2-3
2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;
3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.
KJV

Heb 13:17

17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

KJV

1 Tim 5:17

17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.

KJV

1 Tim 3:2-8

2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

8 Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;

KJV

G. Showing mercy with divine grace.

Rom 12:8

"...he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.."

KJV

2 Cor 9:7

7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

KJV

Acts 2:46

46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

KJV

H. In the general sense, all these qualities should be seen in all

Rom 12:9-21

9 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

11 Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

13 Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

14 Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.

15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

16 Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.

17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

KJV

- Love without dissimulation (much sincerity)
- Utter detesting, abhorrence of evil
- Attachment to things that are good and that which bring benefit to others.
- Fondness to fellow believers
- Leading the way for others in a way that builds dignity
- Not tardy in engagements
- Inspiring to others
- Bonded to serving Christ
- Joyful in expectancy
- Shoring fortitude in meeting pressures
- Constantly diligent in prayer life
- Sharing with others according to their needs
- Pressing forward to being hospitable
- Speaking well even of those who hurt you
- Empathize with others
- Have the same sentiments and opinions
- Humbly reach others
- Be aware of the presence of conceit
- Never render evil for evil
- Treat fairly, equitably and honestly
- Be at peace with everyone
- Avenge not yourselves
- Feed the hungry, provide drink to the thirsty
- Do not be down when offended. Rise from being offended and do good.