

"BUILDING UP" THE BODY OF CHRIST



This work of building people into something special for God isn't just the work of a few. In the consumer driven world of church growth, "worship services" have sometimes become a performance by a few for an audience of many — versus a performance by many to The Audience of One. The apostle Paul reminded the Corinthians that the Christian assembly on Sunday was a gathering of carpenters who came to learn from the Master Carpenter so they could get on with the work of building.

Paul insisted that the worship assembly was not a time for a few very talented to strut their stuff and be full of themselves. Instead, in [1 Corinthians 14](#), he told the early Christians that they came together to build each other up. He uses a form of the word "build up" seven times in his words to them ([14:3](#), [4 \[2x\]](#), [5](#), [12](#), [17](#), [26](#) — the word was originally the construction term *oikodomeo*, that meant to build up a house and was translated "edify" in older translations).

In this one key place where the New Testament talks at length about what we should do on Sunday at church, the main focus is on “building up” people. Somehow that makes sense doesn’t it? After all, God chose to send His Son to planet earth as the son and apprentice of an earthly carpenter.

The Lord, in turn, has done some amazing things with our deficiencies, lack of expertise and questionable craftsmanship. In the final analysis, it is the Master Carpenter who really builds His Church ([Matthew 16:18](#)). He supplies the gifts and abilities to the people of His Church, as well as the leadership that’s responsible for their nourishment ([Ephesians 4:7-13](#)). God brings the growth and increase as we offer our efforts to Him ([1 Corinthians 3:5-9](#)). The Spirit builds us together into a holy temple to God ([Ephesians 2:20-22](#)).

Going to church isn’t about getting what we want, going where we are entertained, or finding the place that is most spectacular in its performances. It is about going to work daily with the Master Carpenter in the task of building up people. He wants us to work at building up His Church into something that reminds the world of Him — not how it looks externally, but how people are touched, blessed, and built interpersonally [Hebrews 10:19-25](#).

God’s people are sacred, and when somebody comes in to criticize and complain and stir up controversies it’s serious business. It’s a big time sin. The church is warned to be careful about those people who tear down. Even though it does come naturally, just don’t do it.

If you have to criticize, you go right to that person. You become a builder; you become someone who cooperates and encourages.

Our efforts at building will not be perfect. In fact, those efforts may not qualify as good workmanship. Yet when those efforts are offered to the Master Carpenter, their results become something precious and eternal. So let’s make a commitment to never just “go to church” again; instead, let’s daily build up others and honor God. When we do this, we will find the Master Carpenter at our side and we will be blessed.

Come on, join in, today is your building day!