

Chapter 1 : The Building up of the Body of Christ is Our Growth in Life

for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; Jubilee Bible for the perfecting of the saints in the work of the ministry, unto the edifying of the body of the Christ.

Yes, the Lord Jesus said in Matt. Yes, there are some gifted members of the Body, like the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers “” but they all are not for directly building up the Body, but they are for the perfecting of the saints. When the saints get perfected by the gifted members, they do the work of the ministry unto the building up of the Body of Christ. This means that we all the saints are those who build up the Body of Christ by being perfected by the gifted members to do what they do: On the one hand we as members of the Body and as newborn babes drink the milk of the Word 1 Pet. This is NOT something organizational or man-made “” just as our physical body does not grow by adding something outwardly to the body but by our proper eating, so the Body of Christ grows, is built up, and develops by our proper eating of the Lord! One very helpful portion in the Bible about this is Eph. The best way to help others is to bring them to touch the Lord and enjoy the Lord “” simply minister Christ to others. We need to learn from the apostle Paul in this and do an organic work “” not depending on methods, ways, or organization, but being those who impart life to others and bring others to touch the Lord as life! We can only do our part to nourish others, to fellowship and pray with others, and to supply the brothers and the sisters with the words of life which we enjoyed with the Lord. When we do this, we look to the Lord, in our inner being, to give life to man and work in man. Also, we can lead and help others to learn to practice holding the truth in love and to grow up in all things into the head, Christ! When the saints are getting into the truth and are holding Christ as the head, they are able to touch and enjoy Christ and give Him the preeminent place in their being and their life. This is the way to grow and be built up. This way, out from the Head, all the Body, being joined together through every joint of the rich supply and being knit together through the operation in the measure of each one part, will be able to grow gradually unto the organic building up of itself in love! All we need to do is bring one another to enjoy the Lord more, and the Lord will grow in us, will build us up, and the Body will grow and be built up! Keep us on the way of life “” cooperating with You for the building up of Your organic Body. Lord, add more of Yourself to our being and increase in us! May we learn the best way to minister Christ to others “” the best way to give life to the saints! Lord, build up Your Body through all the members functioning and growing in their measure. Gain Your built-up Body with us today! Facebook Comments Related Filed Under: I love the Lord Jesus, His Word, the ministry of the age, and the saints. My personal website is StefanMisaras.

Chapter 2 : What Does the Bible Say About Building The Body Of Christ?

for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of.

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—“by grace you have been saved”—It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. You shall do no work. It is a Sabbath to the Lord in all your dwelling places. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants. The smoke from her goes up forever and ever. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority. One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. And another sign appeared in heaven: His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, 2 Timothy 2: Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

Chapter 3 : Ephesians to equip the saints for works of ministry, to build up the body of Christ,

When the saints get perfected by the gifted members, they do the work of the ministry unto the building up of the Body of Christ. This means that we all the saints are those who build up the Body of Christ by being perfected by the gifted members to do what they do: we are perfected to go and preach the gospel, teach others, shepherd the saints.

January 19, by aGodMan 1 Comment We need to give the Lord the freedom and the permission to touch us, enlighten us, and speak a direct word to us concerning the building up of the church as the Body of Christ. We may have realized that the building up of the church as the Body of Christ is through the inner experience of the indwelling Christ, but how much do we see the Body and care for the Body? The Lord promised He will return quickly, but it has been more than years since He left and, because His Body is not built up and the Bride is not prepared, the Lord is delayed in His coming. We need to be open to the Lord as our real Teacher and Trainer to be perfected and edified so that we may realize that the building up of the Body of Christ is by the growth in the divine life. We build up the church as the Body of Christ by growing in the divine life, and the growth of the Body is the increase of God within all the members of the Body. As human beings we develop from a single cell into full-grown people by the miraculous normality of growing in the human life. In the Christian life we develop from receiving the seed of life to being built up into the Body of Christ, the one new man, by growing in the divine life. We need to hold to Christ, the Head, in all things, and out from Him something will come to supply us for our growth in life Eph. Our growth in the divine life by holding the Head is the growth of God, and God increases in all the members of the Body for the building up of the Body in love. The Body of Christ as the Church of God is an Organism and not an Organization We need to realize that the church of God as the Body of Christ is not an organization of human beings but an organism, the organism of the Triune God see John An organisation is something orderly produced through hierarchy, but an organism is something wonderful and orderly produced by life. In the spiritual realm, all believers have the seed of the divine life in them and this life grows in them day by day. What the enemy has been doing in his subtlety is to interfere with the proper growth in life of the saints throughout the ages, and thus he delayed the building up of the Body of Christ. Since the Body of Christ is the organism of the Triune God composed of the many believers in Christ who have the divine life within them, the building up of the Body is the growth in life of the many members of the Body. This is why in the New Testament when the church and the Body are mentioned we are told of being baptized into one Spirit and being given to drink of the one Spirit 1 Cor. The church as the Body of Christ is the organism of the Triune God, the universal vine tree where Christ is the vine, we are the branches, the Spirit is the flowing of life in the Body, and the Father is the husbandman taking care of the vine see John Lord Jesus, we open to You to see a clear vision of the church as the Body of Christ being the organism of the Triune God in humanity. Lord, cause us to see the Body, know the Body, and care for the Body. May we realize that we are members of the organic Body of Christ growing in the divine life day by day for the building up of the Body of Christ! The Organic Building up of the Church as the Body of Christ is the Growth in Life of all the Believers Since the church as the Body of Christ is an organism, the building up of the church is the organic growth of all the members of the church. The law of life directs the growth and development in the Body and produces all the functions in the Body, maintaining everything in order. What the Lord desires to do is to build up the church organically, since the church is the organic Body of Christ see 1 Cor. The organic building up of the church as the Body of Christ is actually the growth in life of all the believers in Christ. As we hold to truth in love we grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ, out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love Eph. How much organic building up in the Body we have experienced depends upon how much growth in the divine life we have had. We have been put in the Body of Christ as members to hold Christ as the Head, and out from the Head comes the supply for us to grow in life and build up the Body see Col. On the one hand we hold the Head and receive the life supply; on the other hand, we are rooted and grounded in Christ as the soil to receive the rich nutrients and grow in the divine life. When we hold Christ as

the Head, we are rooted in Him and we receive the life supply to grow in life and build up the Body of Christ. Our growth in the divine life is the growth of God Col. May we cooperate with the Lord for the building up of the church as His Body by growing in life every day through holding Christ as Head and being rooted in Christ as the soil to receive our growth from Him! Lord Jesus, we hold You as the Head to receive the life supply from You so that we may grow in life for the building up of the Body. Cause us to grow in the divine life unto maturity so that the Body of Christ may be organically built up! Oh Lord, we pray for all the saints to grow in life by holding You as the Head to receive the supply, so that the Body may be built up! References and Hymns on this Topic Inspiration: Hymns on this topic: I love the Lord Jesus, His Word, the ministry of the age, and the saints. My personal website is StefanMisaras.

Chapter 4 : THE NEW WAY TO BUILD UP THE BODY OF CHRIST

If you're operating out of your gifts, other people are being built up, there's unity in the body, you start becoming mature, and you start walking in the building in the fullness and the measure of the stature of Jesus Christ himself.

From a primary ergo; toil; by implication, an act. Waiting at table; in a wider sense: From diakonos; attendance; figuratively aid, service. A primary preposition; to or into, of place, time, or purpose; also in adverbial phrases. Feminine of a compound of oikos and the base of doma; architecture, i. The, the definite article. Including the feminine he, and the neuter to in all their inflections; the definite article; the. Body, flesh; the body of the Church. From sozo; the body, used in a very wide application, literally or figuratively. Anointed One; the Messiah, the Christ. From chrio; Anointed One, i. The Messiah, an epithet of Jesus. The preposition eis used in the two latter clauses which should be unto work of ministration, unto edification of the body of Christ properly signifies "contact with a thing," and the preposition pros used in the first clause, "direction towards a thing. The construction would be greatly simplified, if inversion of the first two clauses could be allowed. For it would then run, "unto work of ministration with a view to perfecting of saints, unto building up of the body of Christ;" and so would plainly represent the two-fold operation of the ministry: But whether this construction be grammatically possible or not, this appears to be in any case the general sense of the passage. The perfecting of the saints. Both processes are necessarily implied in that perfection of the individual saints here spoken of, and more fully described in the next verses. The edifying of the body of Christ. It is here represented as subsequent, perhaps as subordinate, to the individual pastoral dealing with souls. But each has his own gift. Some ministries are more blessed to the individual perfecting of the saints; others to the building up of the whole Church. Pulpit Commentary Verse The ultimate end for which the gifts bestowed comp. A work of completion is in hand, which must be fulfilled see ver. For the work of the ministry. For the building up of the body of Christ. Matthew Henry Commentary 4: All is given as seems best to Christ to bestow upon every one. He received for them, that he might give to them, a large measure of gifts and graces; particularly the gift of the Holy Ghost. Not a mere head knowledge, or bare acknowledging Christ to be the Son of God, but such as brings trust and obedience. There is a fulness in Christ, and a measure of that fulness given in the counsel of God to every believer; but we never come to the perfect measure till we come to heaven. The more a man finds himself drawn out to improve in his station, and according to his measure, all that he has received, to the spiritual good of others, he may the more certainly believe that he has the grace of sincere love and charity rooted in his heart.

Chapter 5 : How is the church the Body of Christ?

In the church, everyone must work at building up the body of Christ. There are at least three ways that we can take building up the body of Christ. The body of Christ is individual Christians. We must work to build up each follower of Christ. As a minister, I think of the church in congregational terms. We build up the body of Christ when we help the local church to function properly.

Please listen with me to the voice of Jesus from Ephesians 4: Paul is here sharing with us the plan Jesus gave him, to keep His saints all doing what He designed them to do. Our theme this year is Our Shared Life. Our goal is to each individually see if we are employed doing what Jesus Christ left us here on earth to do until He came or called. He has been building His Church by saving lost sinners and placing them into this body to be mended and built up. How is this done within a local church? Both ministries are vital. We all need to grasp our responsibility, so that we come to church and operate as a church in the way that God designed us to serve Him. Saints need to be made whole, they need to be mended, and they need to be repaired. Can you see the connection? We all need help, and we all are to help each other. Believers are out in life getting frayed, torn, and ripped by all the troubles and struggles we go through each day. We each sustain some degree of damage through struggles at work, conflicts at home, and temptations nagging us everywhere, and fears assaulting us when we are alone. We also are often just like a net as it gets dragged along the shore in daily use—we have sustained wear and tear to our lives just with the daily pressures and stresses of living. But now comes the wonderful part. This is God using Paul to explain the occupation we all are to do for Him. We come together to see God fixing, mending, restoring each part of life that has started to unravel. Through His plan we get back on the road, the broken down relationships mended, the flat tires of lost hope repaired, confidence and assurance are restored, and we go back on the road of life again. We are repaired, mended, and built up—by His Spirit, through His Word, and using other believers. This is what is repeatedly demonstrated throughout the pages of the New Testament: Mending that glues us together. Just like a twisted ankle can bring our whole body to a halt, so we must not let any part of this local body be twisted, and halted from ongoing, Spirit prompted fellowship and unity! Lord, keep me close to my family in Christ so I can pull others closer to Him. Mending that makes us complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. NKJV Mended souls are a choice. We must want Him to use whatever it takes to make us complete, peaceful, and unified. This is our same word katarizein, the word commonly used for setting a fracture, the word used in Matthew and Mark for mending nets. Lord, restore and renew my peace so I can help those around me. Mending that restores others and protects us. NKJV We are to seek out those who are stalled, broken down spiritually, and knock on their window and ask if we can help them. This is true ministry, and this is what God wants to flow through us to accomplish. We must step out of the climate control of our car driving through life and help fellow believers with flat tires. Lord, nail down my wandering heart to seeking your paths so I can point others your way. Mending that grows us up. Prayers prompted and empowered by Christ mend those around us. Mending that focuses our lives. Lord, restore my focus so I can see the needs of others and help them for you. Mending that builds our endurance. Lord, renew my endurance, and then bring me alongside of someone that is sinking, and let me help them. How is your life? Is it in need of a little mending this morning? Why not pause now and ask God to renew your soul that is troubled, mend your heart that is broken, heal your emotions that are frayed, quiet your mind that is spinning or darkened or saddened, and get you back on track with the Lord. That is what God wants to do here in and through His Church. What is the result of being mended? You begin to see that His Word is the lamp that guides, the food that feeds, the comfort that cheers our souls—as it points us to Christ. Being mended and built up means that we regularly learn that Jesus comes to us by His Spirit, through His Word and gives us the power to do what He asks. This power to do what He has told us to do in the Bible is grace.

Chapter 6 : Concordia Publishing House

"This is the central point about spiritual gifts and church offices: they are given for the common good, for the building up of the body of Christ," Hartung writes in Building Up the Body of Christ (Concordia Publishing House,).

And, even, also, namely. From out, out from among, from, suggesting from the interior outwards. A primary preposition denoting origin, from, out. A bodily organ, limb, member. Of uncertain affinity; a limb or part of the body. The Apostles were those selected by our Lord Himself, or afterwards elected by them to join that body. On prophets and teachers, see 1Corinthians The teachers were probably a junior order of instructors. The enumeration of the gifts here corresponds with that previously given in 1Corinthians The "helps" being the aid required for those who heard tongues in order to the understanding them, and the "governments" being the due regulation of the acceptance of certain spiritual powers and rejection of others. Pulpit Commentary Verse Each Church is a sort of microcosm of the whole Church. Paul does not mean that the Corinthian Church is a member in the body of all the Churches, but that each Corinthian Christian is a member of the Church. Matthew Henry Commentary It is like the members of the same body being without concern for one another, or quarrelling with each other. The proud, contentious spirit that prevailed, as to spiritual gifts, was thus condemned. The offices and gifts, or favours, dispensed by the Holy Spirit, are noticed. Chief ministers; persons enabled to interpret Scripture; those who laboured in word and doctrine; those who had power to heal diseases; such as helped the sick and weak; such as disposed of the money given in charity by the church, and managed the affairs of the church; and such as could speak divers languages. What holds the last and lowest rank in this list, is the power to speak languages; how vain, if a man does so merely to amuse or to exalt himself! See the distribution of these gifts, not to every one alike, ver. This were to make the church all one, as if the body were all ear, or all eye. The Spirit distributes to every one as he will. We must be content though we are lower and less than others. We must not despise others, if we have greater gifts. How blessed the Christian church, if all the members did their duty! Instead of coveting the highest stations, or the most splendid gifts, let us leave the appointment of his instruments to God, and those in whom he works by his providence.

Chapter 7 : Ephesians - Bible Gateway

The body of Christ is the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. The body of Christ, the Church, is made of people who have confess and believed on the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

By October of , I had a deep and clear realization that all of Christianity had nearly come to a standstill. Statistics showed that some of the major denominations were decreasing in number. Whereas the increase in Christianity had been very low, the Moslems and the Buddhists had much increase. We had also come nearly to a standstill in our increase. I went to Taipei to do some research, some experimental work. At the very beginning of my study, I found out that for the church to grow up with the proper increase, there is the need for the proper preaching of the gospel. To have the increase in life we need to beget many new ones. If we stop begetting, we will be terminated. If the human race did not have the element of begetting, it would be terminated within a short amount of time. The factor of begetting has kept the human race going on from one man whose name was Adam to billions of people. Without begetting for the increase and spread of the church, we cannot build up anything. Within ten years beginning in , I observed that the churches in Orange County, California had very little increase. Moreover, by the church in Taipei had decreased in number over the previous twenty years. How can we talk about the building up of the church when we are not begetting or multiplying? I realized that we had to sacrifice something and suffer some loss initially in order to take the new way, but what was the use of remaining in the old way in the same unfruitful state? We needed to sacrifice something to find out some new way. For the Lord to have a proper way out of the denominational traditions, we must take care of four crucial steps: Preaching the Gospel by Visiting People in Their Homes The proper preaching of the gospel is not at all according to the traditional way. I hate tradition to the uttermost because I fully realize that it has greatly damaged and killed many of us without our awareness. Day after day, week after week, month after month, and year after year, the evil one, Satan, has been using tradition to slaughter and annul us. Tradition is oldness, and oldness is staleness. Oldness, staleness, and tradition are synonyms. The practice of degraded Christianity, which we to some extent still retain, has become stale. This was the reason that I paid a great price to return to Taiwan in and stay there for a period of time. While I was there, I was before the Lord day and night concerning what He wanted to do. I believe that the Lord showed us this way. Concerning the preaching of the gospel, we are fully clear that we need to go to visit people by knocking on their doors. There are many ways to preach the gospel, but visiting people by knocking on their doors is the top way for preaching the gospel.

Chapter 8 : The Building Up of the Body of Christ - by Witness Lee

Since the church as the Body of Christ is an organism, the building up of the church is the organic growth of all the members of the church. Every living organism is built up by its growth in life, and with the life there's the life essence, the life power, the life law, and the life shape.

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Chapter 9 : 1 Corinthians Now you are the body of Christ, and each of you is a member of it.

THE NEW WAY TO BUILD UP THE BODY OF CHRIST. When I returned to Taipei in , I was burdened of the Lord to find out a new, scriptural way for us to meet and to serve for the building up of the Body of Christ.

In the church, everyone must work at building up the body of Christ. There are at least three ways that we can take building up the body of Christ. The body of Christ is individual Christians. We must work to build up each follower of Christ. As a minister, I think of the church in congregational terms. We build up the body of Christ when we help the local church to function properly. The third way we build up the body of Christ is when we help the church to function on a world wide basis. Helping spread the gospel internationally, or ministering to the needs of others in distant countries-people that we may have never met- is building up the body of Christ. In some ways, people on the church staff have a great idea of the contributions that people make to building up the body. When I hear how someone has taken care of someone else; when I see people come to the church building and use their talents, when young people shovel the snow so older people can come in safely, when teachers prepare their lessons so that others can learn, when people build each other up in many, many ways, the church is functioning as God intended it. Christ is the conquering hero or emperor who ascends to his throne. In Psalms, the king, receives gifts. In Ephesians, the conquerer gives gifts to men. Specifically, there are five groups of people who are given as gifts, Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. The result is that the body of Christ might be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. In other words, the goal of using our talents is to contribute to the overall growth of the church. We want to use our talents to work toward unity, until we are mature and act like Christ in his fullness. I might refine the question a little. It can be as simple as taking a cup of soup to someone who needs it, making a phone call, picking up trash around the church ground, listening to the needs of a friend. If have some great talent-thank God for it and put it to use in helping others. In doing so, you are helping to build up the body of Christ.