

# Get Involved in Edification

Eph 4:11-16

A. Edward Everett Hale, the distinguished poet and former Chaplain of the U.S. Senate, eloquently said: "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. What I can do, that I ought to do. And what I ought to do, by the grace of God, I shall do."

I want to make the Theme for 2019 here at West Side – Involvement in The Work of the Ministry.

Involvement is a scary word: "I don't want to get involved." But can you? Matt 7:21 *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."*

## What Is Involvement?

One definition is; **"To be engaged in – To be a part of; to be a participant."** I'm pretty sure that you are not involved until you are engaged in the work. Of necessity involvement will require: Time, Energy, Money. Truthfully, many would prefer to pay someone else to do it when it comes to work in the church. I know a man who was this way about the work of the church but then paid \$3000 to be a part of the Boston Red Sox baseball team for one day during spring training!!

## What Is Edification?

Greek oikodomē - building up Rom.15:2 *"Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up."*

## Why Involvement in Edification?

- It is Commanded: Teaching them to observe all things. Mt 28:20
- It is Expected: Ye ought to be teachers. Heb 5:12
- For Continuity: The same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. 2 Tim 2:2

- For Maturity: *That we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.* Col 1:28
- For Equipping the saints: *The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.* Eph 6:17
- For the Growth of the body: *For the edifying of the body of Christ.* Eph 4:12
- It is God's Work: *For the work of the ministry.* Eph 4:12
- For the Truth: *For the unity of the faith.* Eph 4:13
- To Know God: *And of the knowledge of the Son of God.* Eph 4:13
- To be Perfect: *Unto a perfect man.* Eph 4:1
- To be Like Christ: *unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.* Eph 4:13
- For Steadfastness: *We be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine.* Eph 4:14

## **I Am Only One: But the Sum of Every-one Is A Whole.**

When every member is involved, it maximizes the church's effectiveness. Conversely, when people are unwilling to get involved it is a handicap to the church. Helen Keller : **"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."**

## **I cannot do everything, but I can do something.**

There is a great truth that we all need to know and embrace. God does not require from us what we cannot do. Mt 25:23 ***"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'"***

We will be judged by what we can do but did not do. Mt 25:27 ***"Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest."***

## **What I can do, that I ought to do.**

There is no excuse- Remember the one talent man. Matt 25:26 *“But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed?’”*

**Church Work is EVERYONE’s business.** Luke 6:46 *“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?”*

## **And what I ought to do, by the grace of God, I shall do.**

Your talent is given by the grace of God. Matt 25:14-15 *“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.”*

God will be at judgement. 2 Cor 5:10 *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.”*

## **Why are some not involved?**

- Fear: I was afraid. Matt 25:25 *“so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.”*
- Selfishness: Why should I get involved? Phil 2:21 *“For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.”*
- Apathy: Indifference, Unconcerned, uninterested.

## **Edification Builds Up the Body.**

You either build or destroy.

Try leaving a new car park outside for a year.

Try leaving a child alone and don’t teach him anything.

We put a lot of emphasis on our children’s education. Do we neglect their spiritual education? We spend BILLIONS as a nation on secular education.

God wants us to teach. Heb 5:12 *“For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food,”*

## **Why Be A Bible Class Teacher?**

Bible class teachers are special workers in the Kingdom. Those brothers and sisters that serve as faithful Bible class teachers deserve our thanks, support, and encouragement for their efforts. Truth is, a Bible class teacher who teaches well, brings a soul nearer to heaven.

We can either be involved or be cast away. We know that God does not ask of us what we CAN'T give. He expects 100% of our ability to be used for His service. We CAN DO this! In Rev. 2:4 we read that the church at Ephesus lost her first love. As a result, they were in danger of losing their place with God. The church at Laodicea was lukewarm: Be zealous or be removed. Rev 3:16. Some don't even realize that they are spiritually dead – Be involved or be cast out.

God wants all His children to be teachers as we saw in Heb 5:12. Teachers need to be a godly example, serving as a model for their students to imitate.

Teachers must be learners: “A teacher must be one who knows the lesson or truth to be taught” – The 7 laws of Teaching by James Milton Gregory

## **Conclusion:**

Get off the side-lines and get involved.

A man was watching a house fire until someone said to him, “Your wife is in there.” Suddenly, he is force into action. He runs to the back door, throws it open, crawls into the living room and drags his wife to safety. He saves her life, because she is his wife. Would he have become involved if it had been somebody that he did not know? If it had been his neighbor's house down the street would he have become involved?

God has given each of us talents and He wants us to use them to serve Him. You can teach someone. There is no excuse for not teaching.