

Love Edifies!

ESV 1 Corinthians 8:1 Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love **(edifies) builds up**.

At this time Jews were divided by the teachings of **Moses** and **Jesus**, Jesus adds **grace** to the equation, confusing some.

They didn't understand **grace is adding love to The Law!**

Paul **before** he is converted is a Pharisee named **Saul** who tried hard to destroy The Church, going from house to house dragging believers out and putting them in prison.

Paul a converted Pharisee comes along and says **knowledge doesn't produce love it produces pride!**

The apostle Paul says **knowledge** makes people **proud**, **arrogant** and gives them an **inflated opinion of themselves**.

Along the lines of the old adage, ***“I don't care how much you know until I know how much you care.”***

Those excluded from the Grace of God were considered heathen, looked down on upon and treated as animals.

They thought **themselves better** than others because of their knowledge of God!

From the very beginning **Satan** has used **knowledge** to separate and divide mankind, telling people God doesn't love them.

Jude says in **The Last Days** people will cause **divisions** because they're mainly concerned about physical things and not spiritual things of God!

Jude says the way to resist this attitude is to **“Stay in The Love of God.”**

The scripture says to **“keep ourselves in the love of God.”**

It's our own responsibility to stay loving God and loving people!

How do we do it? **Jude** says in **Jude 1:20** *But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.*

Praying in The Holy Ghost is praying with The Holy Spirits help by the love He gives us for God and one another!

***Romans 5:5** Says God's love has been poured liberally into our hearts by The Holy Ghost!*

Verse 6 says, *while we were still weak, (without the strength of God's love) at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.*

Giving us the **strength to build each other up** and stop **tearing each other and The Kingdom of God down** like Paul did when he was **Saul**.

Never forget God's love builds the saints up, Satan's hatred of the saints tears us down!

***ESV Genesis 3:1** Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?”*

Or do you know what God says about *what you should or shouldn't eat, I know so let me tell you?*

Notice the scripture says **The serpent** and not a serpent but a **specific serpent**; this means the subject (**the serpent**) is already known to the listener (**Adam & Eve**).

The serpent had been communicating with Eve for a while **trying to get Eve out of The Love of God** and fill her head with **his knowledge**.

For you English majors it's called a "**specific noun**" and helps the reader understand **the weight to give their words**.

The Devil carries more weight and deserves more respect than **"a devil."**

God's Word carries more weight than Satan's word or **man's words** even if they are preaching a word!

The Serpent is not just any old snake or reptile, this is none other than **Satan the accuser**, and **The Devil the slanderer**.

We can distinguish between people speaking God's Word and Satan twisting God's Word by who benefits from it!

KJV Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world!

Satan The Devil exists to **oppose and resist God!**

So, he resists and perverts LOVE because God is Love!

Satan hates love so he twists and perverts love into all kinds of wicked, twisted expressions and convinces people it's love.

Let's stay in The Love of God & build each other up!

As sure as we're sitting here The Devil has been trying to convince people in churches all over the world that God doesn't really love them!

To leave The Church of Jesus Christ and join a Cult and the people in this Cult are really the people showing you the love The Church doesn't have.

Here's the thing, are they showing you the kind of love that "edifies all people" or the kind of love that builds up certain people but rejects and harms other people?

God's love doesn't build up some and tears down others (the people you don't like or think deserves Love).

For the scripture says, *"For God so loved the world He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him will have eternal life."* (John 3:16)

God loves the world, even people we don't like in the world.

Romans 14:19 Let us pursue things that bring peace and edify or build up each other.

Satan hates everyone and wants to destroy everyone; God loves everyone and wants to save everyone!

KJV John 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

35 *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

People can tell we don't have God's love if we only love who we chose and not who God tells us to love!

KJV Zechariah 3:1 And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him.

Satan is standing at the **right hand of Joshua the high priest.**

The high priest of Israel was like The Pope today; they interpret The Law to the people and so doing they **dictate their worship and service to God.**

With Satan standing at the right hand of the High Priest, it's means Satan was influencing the High Priest not God.

Who is standing at your right side speaking into your heart?

Who's **the high priest** that's dictating your worship?

- **As Christians Christ Jesus is our Chief Apostle and High Priest (Heb 3:1).**

Even though Jesus is God and knows all things He became a man to experience what it's like as a man to worship God!

To fully know what it is like to be human, so He could **love us based on experiential knowledge.**

In other words, Jesus knows what it is like to be every single person who ever lived, we however do not!

Jesus knows what it was like to be your father, you don't!

Jesus knows what it was like to be your math teacher, you don't!

Jesus knows what it was like to be Martin Luther King, we don't!

Jesus knows what it was like to be black, white, Asian and every person who ever lived, we do not!

Jesus knows what it takes to build up people everywhere!

Heb 4:15 We have a **high priest** who is **able to sympathize** with our **weaknesses** because He became one of us and experienced Satan's attacks.

So, when Satan attacks; Jesus said **just call my Name** and help is **instant and certain!**

Jesus knows what it's like, He knows exactly what to do He can handle The Devil and his demons, He's done it before!

Because God's Love Edifies, it strengthens and builds up!

KJV Zechariah 3:1 And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him.

My brothers and sisters when we realize God is graciously standing beside us it makes us humble not arrogant.

Humble because we are saved by grace not by our own doing it is a **gift from God!**

Not because we are Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist, Baptist, Pentecostal or of any other groups.

Being proud and arrogant to be of a certain group puffs up, while God's love builds up!

May The LORD who stands by our side show us how to truly build people up!

God's love is easy to understand, receive and be built up and strengthened by!

ESV 2 Corinthians 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

All grace is all the various types of love and mercy God has that He shows His children daily!

God's Grace (edifies) it builds us up; it doesn't tear us down!

The Church is always in a **building project**, because God is always **edifying His people**.

Paul addresses the elders in Macedonia and Greece says...

KJV Acts 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend (drop you off) you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

Only God's Grace can fill us with God's love and build us up!

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Knowledge without grace makes people proud, arrogant and act superior to others.

But love for God and each other causes us to help build up one another and society developing a world of faith & love.