



Tools for the People-Building Business

Matt VanCleave
September 4, 2022

GROUP ICE BREAKER

What team do you follow the most (sports team, movie team, etc) and why?

MESSAGE SUMMARY

All of us work; we all have a job or jobs that we fill our time and task lists with. And while our titles or job descriptions may differ, all our work includes some form of people-building. From parents who encourage kids to nurses who build up patients to CEOs who build up employees, we all edify others.

Paul paints a beautiful picture of what it means to work in Ephesians 4. Drawing from the language used in architecture, Paul notes how the main action found in all work is edification or building others up. Edification isn't merely a word tossed around for construction, and Paul notes that it is a word that aligns with an expansive and deeply meaningful building process, aligning what we do in our work lives and how we build others up with important architectural projects. Paul takes this word with this rich building background and says God's ultimate desire is that this be what happens to his people. So this week, we'll talk about the tools we need to be master crafters in this process of edifying or building up others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Ephesians 4:11. Which role that Paul lists do you most align with?
2. Why do you think all these roles, and a diversity of roles, are necessary for edification?
3. How does the buildings and architecture connection used for the word 'edification' help to understand what Paul is trying to explain in Ephesians 4?
4. Who in your work life could you recognise as someone who needs your edification?
5. Matt teaches on three tools we can use for building up others. The first is problems. Why and how do problems work as a tool for edification?
6. Jesus knew how to assign wise problems, allowing problems to be a tool. What does it look like in your life to receive and assign wise problems?
7. The second tool is words. Why are words such powerful tools for edification?
8. What ways can you use words this week to build someone up in your life? Discuss a specific person and what ways words can be used this week.
9. The last tool is hope. How have you experienced hope as an edifying tool?
10. What does hope look like in your workplace?
11. Why do you think Paul focuses on building others up and how does it influence the people building in your work life this week?

