

Introduction

1. Commitment is defined as “an agreement or pledge to do something in the future” or “the state or an instance of being obligated or emotionally impelled” (Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary).
2. When someone obeys the gospel, they are added to the church by God ([Ac. 2:37-41](#), [47](#)).
 - a. This makes them a member of the body of Christ ([1 Cor. 12:12-14](#)).
 - b. The church is also the house of God ([1 Tim. 3:15](#)).
3. The church has work to do in the areas of edification, evangelism, and benevolence.

I. What is Edification?

1. Several terms are employed in the New Testament which are related to edification.
 - a. *oikodome* (G3619 noun) used 18 times in the New Testament.
 - i. Eight times translated as “edify(ing),” six times as “building(s),” and four times as “edification.”
 - ii. “the act of building’ (*oikos*, ‘a home,’ and *demo*, ‘to build’)” (Vine vol. 2 p. 194).
 - iii. “the act of one who promotes another’s growth in Christian wisdom, piety, holiness, happiness” (Thayer 440).
 - iv. “to increase the potential of someone or something, with focus upon the process involved—‘to strengthen, to make more able, to build up’” (Louw-Nida 675).
 - b. *oikodomeo* (G3618 verb) used 39 times in the New Testament.
 - i. Fourteen times translated as “build(ed),” ten times as “built,” five times as “builders,” four times as “edif(y)(ied),” three times as “edifieth,” two times as “buldest,” and once as “emboldened.”
 - ii. “literally, ‘to build a house’” (Vine vol. 2 p. 194).
 - iii. “to promote growth in Christian wisdom, affection, grace, virtue, holiness, blessedness” (Thayer 440).
2. Edification simply defined is “to build up.”

- a. This is the very opposite of what Satan is attempting to do which is to tear down through division and other means ([Lk. 11:17](#); cf. [1 Cor. 1:10, 12:25](#)).

II. Committed to the Church in Edification Means...

1. We choose to use our words to build up ([Eph. 4:29](#)).
 - a. Our words matter ([Pr. 15:1-2, 4, 7, 23, 26, 28](#)).
 - b. There are many ways we can build each other up with our words including phone calls, text messages, emails, cards, visitation, and prayer.
2. We are mindful of each other's opinions and consciences ([Rm. 14:19](#)).
 - a. In the context of scruples ([Rm. 14:1-3](#)).
 - b. Edification guards against selfishness ([Rm. 15:1-3](#)).
3. We do our part to make sure all things are done unto edifying ([1 Cor. 14:26](#)).
 - a. In the context of misuse of spiritual gifts in the assemblies ([1 Cor. 14:1-11](#)).
 - b. Zeal for excelling in edification must be present ([1 Cor. 14:12](#)).
 - c. God structured the church so that she would receive edification ([Eph. 4:11-16](#)).
4. We assemble at every opportunity we possibly can ([Heb. 10:24-25](#)).
 - a. The shepherds are given the responsibility to shepherd the church of God ([Ac. 20:28](#)).
 - b. Assembling is necessary to receive edification.
 - c. Consider all the opportunities this congregation has to receive edification.

Conclusion

1. As a member of the church, I must be committed to her and her work.
2. In the area of edification or building up, I must:
 - a. Choose my words to build up.
 - b. Be mindful of each other's opinions and consciences.
 - c. Do my part to make sure all things are done unto edifying.
 - d. Assemble at every opportunity I possibly can.