



## **Building Up the “Building”** by Edd Sterchi

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

Of course we know that the physical building where we meet is not the church, the people of God are the church. In fact, **Ephesians 2:19-22** states that not only is the church (the people) the “whole building” but also it is a building in progress (“grows”, “being built together”). This got me to thinking: When does this “building” of the church take place? I believe that it happens when we gather together as a church. Notice, for example:

- \* When we gather together, our knowledge is “built up.” We study the Scriptures and learn more about God’s holy will. We learn about properly living Christian lives and how to express Christ in everything we do. (**2 Timothy 2:15; 2 Peter 1:5-8**)
- \* When we gather together, our faith is “built up.” By interacting with one another, we strengthen each other’s faith, making each more mature and productive in the Lord’s kingdom (**Ephesians 3:14-21; 2 Peter 3:18**).
- \* When we gather together, our love and respect for the brethren are “built up.” The more we get together, the stronger our bond of love becomes for one another. The stronger our love for one another, the more we help each other, continuing the building process (**1 John 3:11, 23; 4:7, 11-12**).
- \* When we gather together, our zeal is “built up.” The smiles and excitement I see on folks’ faces is always heartwarming, encouraging, and contagious. No one can pick me up like a loving brother or sister in Christ (**Romans 1:11-12; 2 Corinthians 9:2**).
- \* When we gather together, our hope is “built up.” Coming together apart from the world helps to remind us of our common goal – heaven. Together it is much easier to recall that “our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness” (**Hebrews 6:19-20; 1 Peter 1:3-5, 13-16**).

The church (the people of God) is the building of God, built upon Jesus Christ. We have a responsibility to be continually building each other up.

Therefore comfort each other and edify one another.  
(**1 Thessalonians 5:11**, note: “edify” means “to build up”)