



# The Tri-Cities Edifier

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## The Fruit of Our Lips

“Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.” Hebrews 13:15

Fruit is the produce of the tree. If you have an apple tree, its produce is the apple. The fruit that is produced from our lips are the words that are spoken or sung from them. Where does the fruit of our lips begin? Jesus said “But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man.” What is produced from our mouth and leaves our lips has come from our heart.

Much is said in the Scriptures about our words. (Read: James 3:1-12)

Jesus said, “But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.” Matthew 12:26,

““You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.” Exodus 20:7

“Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.” Colossians 4:6

The Hebrew writer in Hebrews 13:15 instructs us to offer the sacrifice of praise to God. The sacrifice of praise he has in mind is “the fruit of our lips”. The words that come out of our mouth are to bring praise unto God. We are to be thankful people and our thanksgiving should be expressed in words of thanks unto Him.. When we sing, the words that proceed from our lips should be sung from our heart. This is what the apostle Paul is clearly teaching in Ephesians and Colossians.

“speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,**” (emphasis sdc) Ephesians 5:19

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.**” (emphasis sdc) Colossians 3:16

The fruit of our lips, in giving thanks to the Name of God, is to be a continual thing by Jesus Christ. (Hebrews13:15) Jesus gave His blood (Hebrews 13:12) to purchase His people (Acts 20:28) and that is a lot to be very thankful for. And, our words of thanksgiving, praise and song should start deep within our heart and easily find their way to the fruit of our lips.

STACY

## Let's Get Together!

by Dan Shipley

Maybe it's the fast pace of twentieth century living; maybe it's too much TV, or it may be just plain indifference, but whatever the reason, it occurs to me that most Christians are not having enough personal contact with each other. Many rarely see their brethren except at Bible classes or worship. Surely we owe one another something more in this area - something more than our customary vestibule visiting and exchanging of parking-lot pleasantries; something

more than a sort of in-passing relationship that is mainly church-building oriented. Must we become old, infirmed or unfaithful to warrant a visit from our brethren? Man is a social creature, ever subject to the influence of those about him. As evil companionships corrupt (1 Cor. 15:33), keeping good company can be profitable for all (1 Pet. 2:12; 3:1; Matt. 5:6) - especially for Christians who will be what they ought to be to each other. And that simply means, "In love of the brethren be tenderly affectioned one to another; in honor preferring one another..." (Rom. 12:10).

Such love involves more than passive and partisan feelings toward other Christians. Christ alludes to deeper dimensions when he says, "even as I have loved you, that ye also love one another" (John 13:34). His love for the disciples was made apparent; it could be seen in what He did! So must ours. Such love is the mark of discipleship; its presence is observable and influential (John 13:35). Therefore, the fullest expression of sincere and fervent love (1 Pet. 1:22) is impossible apart from some form of personal contact and association.

Consider, for instance, the admonition to "bear ye one another's burdens" (Gal. 6:2). How does one bear who is not there? We may pray and sympathize from afar, but fulfilling the law of Christ in this area usually requires both heart and hand. Keeping in touch helps brethren to know when a helping hand is needed. But more than that, being together more means better communication between us; the kind in which we can confess our sins to one another (James 5:16); the kind in which we can admonish, edify and exhort each other (Rom. 15:14; 14:19; Heb. 3:13). When the weak need to be encouraged (1 Thess. 5:14); when the sorrowed need to be comforted (1 Thess. 4:18), we need to be there. And even when there is no particular need evident, our being there may mean more than we know. We see the need for the elders to keep in close touch with the flock of their oversight. Without it they could not watch in behalf of the souls for which they shall give account (Heb. 13:17). But we also must see our personal opportunities to serve the King by serving even the least among our brethren (Matt. 25:40) for we too must give account. Others cannot represent us in such service, we must be there.

Even if we cannot have the day by day association enjoyed by many of the early disciples, we can and ought to have more time for each other. So, let's get together! - for a home Bible study, for a meal, for a pot-luck, for coffee or for just an old-fashion visit. For the sake of every benefit and blessing that can be given or received by kin in Christ being together, let's get together!

Plain Talk, April, 1974

### One Another Passages

Love One Another – John 15:2	Bear One Another's Burdens – Galatians 6:2
Kindly Affectionate to One Another – Romans 12:10	Bearing with One Another – Colossians 3:13
Be of the Same Mind Toward One Another – Romans 12:16	Forgiving One Another – Colossians 3:13 Ephesians 4:32
Greet One Another – 2 Corinthians 13:12	Edify One Another – 1 Thessalonians 5:11
Consider One Another – Hebrews 10:24	Exhort One Another – Hebrews 10:25
Confess Your Trespasses to One Another – James 5:16	Pray for One Another James 5:16
Compassion for One Another – 1 Peter 3:8	Hospitable to One Another – 1 Peter 4:9