



Able to Instruct One Another: Tracing the Roots and Fruits of Mutual Edification in the Church of Christ

by Jeremiah A. Morris

"*Able to Instruct One Another* is a scholarly and systematic exposition of the roots and fruits of the biblically and historically prominent practice of mutual edification. Morris' objective pro-approach to the truth is an excellent example of the 'goodness and knowledge' Paul noted in the brethren at Rome who were able to

instruct one another (Romans 15:14)."

—Dwain Stoops, elder at the Riverside Road church of Christ, Ozark, Missouri

Teaching, preaching, edifying, exhorting, and admonishing have always been mainstays within the assemblies of God's people. *Able to Instruct One Another: Tracing the Roots and Fruits of Mutual Edification in the Church of Christ* (June 25, 2007, self-published, \$7.00) is the first book to thoroughly research the biblical and historical roots of mutual edification as well as examine numerous benefits of the practice, the role of evangelists in mutual edification congregations, and see the practice through the eyes of three different congregations.

Mutual edification is the practice of encouraging and utilizing all male members of a congregation in the public preaching and teaching who are so gifted and qualified. All aspects of public instruction in the assembly, whether teaching classes, guiding thoughts at the Lord's Table, or presenting sermons, are shared by

those men of the congregation who have developed the talents of instruction. Despite the fact that only a small portion of congregations today regularly employ mutual edification, the practice was far more prominent in the past – including the first century.

Able to Instruct One Another reaches back to New Testament times and beyond to search for the deep roots of mutual edification. Additionally, the work focuses on numerous benefits which individuals and congregations can enjoy with this practice. Readers will discover:

Mutual edification was the standard practice of the ancient Jewish synagogue. The synagogue service became a blueprint which early Christian congregations adopted.

Nearly twenty passages of the New Testament deal with the mutual aspect of instruction in the public assembly.

A vast number of historians describe mutual edification as a common practice of congregations during the first century.

Mutual edification offers benefits which individuals, families, and congregations, can enjoy for years to come. These benefits include a deeper understanding of God's Word, increased ability to spread the gospel, and an excellent tool to develop future elders.

Case studies of one New Testament congregation and two current congregations give insight to how the practice is utilized in certain circumstances. The case studies reveal that mutual edification works in both large and small congregations.

Written to inform believers of a neglected method of public instruction in the assemblies, *Able to Instruct One Another* creates an irrefutable case that mutual edification is both scriptural and historical. The evidence is overwhelming that mutual edification was practiced far more in the times of the apostles than today.

About the Author

Jeremiah A. Morris has been writing short stories since grade school. After his decision to obey the gospel of Christ, he focused his writing on topics which impacted the Body of Christ. As a member of the Murray Road church of Christ, the influence of mutual edification encourages him to diligently study the Word

and seek out God's wisdom on all things spiritual. Three different brotherhood periodicals have published articles penned by Morris. *Able to Instruct One Another* is the cumulative work of four years of research and prayer and a lifetime of studying and seeing the practice in action. Jeremiah has a degree in Chemistry/Biochemistry from Missouri State University and currently works as a chemist. He and his wife have been blessed with three daughters and they currently live in Lee's Summit, Missouri.

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