

# 1 Corinthians 14:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.

## Analysis

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**For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified**—Paul concedes the tongues-speaker gives eucharisteis (εὐχαριστεῖς, "thanksgiving") kalōs (καλῶς, "well, beautifully"). But ho heteros (ὁ ἕτερος, "the other person") is ouk oikodomeitai (οὐκ οἰκοδομεῖται, "not edified").

The concession is gracious: your tongues-thanksgiving is genuine and beautiful—before God. But in corporate worship, one person's blessing that doesn't edify others fails the love test. The contrast between "well" and "not edified" is devastating: sincerity doesn't excuse failure to serve. This echoes 13:1-3—even the most spectacular gifts without love accomplish nothing.

## Historical Context

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This likely reflects actual practice: individuals giving beautiful, Spirit-prompted thanksgiving in tongues while the congregation sat confused. Paul doesn't question sincerity but measures success by edification.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How can worship be sincere ('thou verily givest thanks well') yet fail to edify?
2. Why isn't personal blessing in worship sufficient if others aren't built up?
3. What's the relationship between the quality of worship and its edifying effect?

## Interlinear Text

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σὺ	μὲν	γὰρ	καλῶς	εὐχαριστεῖς	ἀλλ'	ὁ	ἕτερος	οὐκ
<b>thou</b>	<b>verily</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>well</b>	<b>givest thanks</b>	<b>but</b>	G3588	<b>the other</b>	<b>not</b>
G4771	G3303	G1063	G2573	G2168	G235		G2087	G3756

οἰκοδομεῖται

**edified**  
G3618

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Corinthians 14:4** (Parallel theme): He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.