

You Are God's Building

✓ *'...you are God's building'* (1 Cor.3:9)

✓ Jesus is building His Church. The Church is the one thing He is building on earth, and you and I are a part of it

✓ How is He building it?

- Foundationally

- Relationally

- Generationally

✓ *'...having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit' (Eph.2:20-22)*

✓ **We are not the ones who are building. He is. But we are the ones being built together**

✓ **First, we are built upon the foundation of Jesus Christ**

✓ **Then, as living stones we are being built, fitted, joined together**

✓ **We can't build a structure unless we join things together**

✓ **The Spirit is joining us. What God joins together, let no-one put asunder**

✓ **The enemy will work on separating us, disconnecting us**

- ✓ **God is building the church relationally**
- ✓ **God is a relational being and we have been created in His image as relational beings**
- ✓ **In all we do, emphasize what God is doing. He is building us, joining us, fitting us together**
- ✓ **How we relate to the church is determined by how we see the church**

How do we see the Church?

- ✓ **Some see the Church as a nomadic people, moving from congregation to congregation. But they are never really joined or built together with others. The Church is no more a bunch of nomads than a building is a pile of bricks**
- ✓ **Some say they are already a part of the Church, but choose not to be a part of a local church. The mystics believe we grow closer to God in isolation. But the Bible teaches the opposite. Our identity, our growth and our destiny is not in isolation, it is in being joined together**

✓Others believe the most important thing is to understand that we are living in the end times. Their focus is to stay at home and scour the internet for end times teaching so they can know how close we are to the return of Christ, and then tell others

✓But the Church is a prophetic people. We are not called to predict the future but to fulfill prophecy

✓We are not hanging out at the 'rapture bus stop'. We are being joined to His people in a living, vital, growing, practical way...and there is a divine, eternal purpose in this

- ✓ *'For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named'* (Eph.3:14-15). Salvation is not only entrance into the kingdom, but into the family of God
- ✓ Some will split the family over an issue or a difference of opinion. We can have relationship without agreeing on secondary beliefs, or liking everything about each other
- ✓ Our goal is not cloning, but joining. We have organic life consisting of diversity
- ✓ Those with a disposable relationship mentality will fight and divide over issues. Those with a building mentality will fight for relationships

- ✓ **The term 'church' is used predominately in the NT in reference to the *local* church**
- ✓ **The idea of local churches did not originate with us, but with God**
- ✓ **What is God's goal and purpose as far as the Church is concerned? It is, *'that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God'* (Eph.3:17-19)**

✓ **Being in a family makes love possible,**
'Therefore as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith' (Gal.6:10)

✓ *'... we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of **one another**'*
(Rom.12:5)

✓ **'One another'** is from the Greek word *allelon* and is a reciprocal pronoun. It is not one-way traffic. It occurs 100 times in the NT, and 59 of these are specific instructions on how (and how not) to relate to one another

✓ ***Allelon*** forms the basis for all true Christian community, and our witness to the world

Family Attitudes

✓ ***'Receive **one another**, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God' (Rom.15:7) □***

✓ ***'Be of the same mind towards **one another**. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion' (Rom.12:16)***

✓ ***'Be kindly affectionate to **one another** with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to **one another**' (Rom.12:10). We are in relationship with each other, not competition with one another. We learn to defer to one another***

✓ *'Love **one another** fervently with a pure heart' (1 Pet.1:22). This occurs at least 16 times. 'Agape'*

✓ *'Let us consider **one another** to stir up love and good works' (Heb.10:24)*

✓ *'Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting **one another**, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching' (Heb.10:25)*

✓ *'Lead a life worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with **one another** in love' (Eph. 4:1-2). Relationships will be tested by offences, misunderstandings, dislikes, etc.*



Family language

- ✓ Under pressure our language reveals our attitude. 'Your Church', 'the Church', or 'our Church'?
- ✓ *"Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of **one another**' (Eph.4:25). Family members speak face-to-face, truthfully and lovingly. Truth without love is a vicious weapon. Love without truth is a blunted blessing*



****'Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which **one** may edify **another**' (Rom.14:19)***

****'Let us not judge **one another** any more...' (Rom.14:13)***



****'Do not speak evil of **one another**, brethren' (James 4:11). Those with no vision to build will use family secrets to trade with. There is a proper way to deal with sin, but exposing it before others is not the way***

'Confess your trespasses to **one another'
(James 5:16)*

'Pray for **one another, that you may be
healed' (James 5:16)*

'Be kind to **one another, tenderhearted,
forgiving **one another**, just as God in Christ
also forgave you' (Eph.4:32)*

**Encourage one another, care for one
another, exhort one another, serve one
another, admonish one another, etc.*

Summary

God is building His Church

He is joining us together, so that...

**...we may experience the width and length, depth
and height of His love, so that...**

...we might be filled with the fullness of God