

Pastor Ray's Bible School #9

“How God Builds”

Unless the LORD builds the house,
They labor in vain who build it.
Psalm 127:1 NAS

I. God Is a Builder

A. The Prophetic View of God

1. God is Creator, King, Sovereign, Father, and Savior...but He is also a *Builder*!
2. The opening chapter of scripture presents God as Builder, the “Great Architect” of creation. (Genesis 1; Psalm 104; Isaiah 40)
3. When God became man, His occupation was “carpenter”...and the son of a carpenter!

B. What Is God Building?

1. God is building a house, a family.
2. God is a family man.
3. “House” in scripture often speaks of “family”.
 - a. Noah enters the ark with his “house”. (Genesis 7:1 KJV)
 - b. War between two “houses” (2 Samuel 3:1 KJV)
 - c. The “house of David” is mentioned 26 times in the Old Testament and once in Luke 1:27; in no case does the term mean a physical residence.
 - d. Peter tells Cornelius words whereby his whole “house” could be saved. (Acts 11:14 KJV)
 - e. Paul tells the Philippian jailor he can be saved with his entire “house”. (Acts 16:31-33 KJV)
4. God is also guarding a “city” (a collection of houses).
 - a. You are a city set on a hill. (Matthew 5:14)

- b. John saw the “holy city” descending from heaven. (Revelation 21:2)
- c. Abraham looked for a “city”, whose Builder and Maker is God. (Hebrews 11: 9, 10)

5. So we see:

- a. God is a Builder
- b. He’s building a Family

But HOW is God building what He’s building?

Revelationally

Relationally

Generationally

These 3 “Building Blocks” are God’s prophetic pattern for all He does!

II. How God Builds: Three Building Blocks

A. God Builds Revelationally

“And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not *revealed* it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, *and upon this rock I will build my church;* and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
Matthew 16:16-18 KJV

1. The Key to the Passage: Understanding the “Rock”

- a. The “rock” is not Peter, as wrongly interpreted by some traditions.
- b. God will not build on flesh.
- c. Peter is just a man, and a flawed one at that. If Peter were “infallible”, he wouldn’t have needed doctrinal correction and rebuke from the Apostle Paul. (Galatians 2:11-14)
- d. Only God can unveil, reveal, or disclose Christ to sinful man.
- e. The “rock” is nothing other than *the revelation of the true identity of Jesus Christ, sovereignly bestowed by God the Father!*

2. Salvation is Revelation!

“And this is life eternal, *that they might know thee* the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”

John 17:3 KJV

a. We’ll never build great churches if we don’t build God’s way, and this is where God starts!

b. The foundation of every life is the revelation of the true identity of Christ. We must leave no stone unturned to be sure that “rock” is laid before we try to build anything further.

3. “I Will Build My Church”

a. Finally, here in the New Testament, we understand the “mystery” hidden in God from the foundation of the world...that everything God has done finds fulfillment in the Church, the “House” of God, and the “Family” of God!

b. The Church does not *replace* Israel; she is now *revealed* as the continuing family God has been building since Abraham...the *true Jews* who have sought God on the basis of faith and obedience...spiritual Israel.

“A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God.”

Romans 2:28-29 NIV

c. Caveat: In the same way that everyone in Israel was not a true Israelite by faith (Rom.9:6-8), so the Church contains “wheat and tares” (Matt.13:24-30; 37-43), but “God knows them that are His” (2 Timothy 2:17-19).

“For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel.”

Romans 9:6 NIV

The foundation stone for ALL God builds is divine revelation of Christ!

B. God Builds Relationally- The first “not good” uttered by God in scripture deals with man’s “aloneness”.

“It is not good that man be *alone*...”

Genesis 2:18

“God *sets* the solitary in families...”

Psalms 68:6 KJV

“For God hath *set* in the body every member as pleases Him.”

1 Corinthians 12:18 KJV

1. Vertical relationship: Nothing happens until revelation comes. *Revelation* brings us into right relationship with God.

2. Horizontal relationship

a. The next stone in God's building program deals with "setting" us into horizontal relationship with others.

b. Every birth, natural and physical, comes through relationship.

1) Conception can't take place outside of relationship.

2) Birth can't take place except out of relationship.

3) Survival is impossible outside of relationship.

3. The Power of a Proper Placement- God is Obsessed with Placement!

a. God did not create man in the Garden...He *placed* him there!
(Cf. Genesis 1:26-28 w/ Genesis 2:7-8)

b. Two prophetic principles

1) God never leaves you where He finds you.

2) He has a "Garden", an "Eden" or "Paradise" for you.

c. Placement precedes assignment of destiny and the relationship of marriage.

1) God placed man before giving Him his assignment.

2) God placed man before giving Him a wife.

d. In essence, God creates man, (as He re-creates us in salvation and regeneration), then places him in relationship, (as He "sets" us in His body, the Church), all as "pleases Him"!

4. All spiritual growth and maturity requires relationship. *Every* New Testament passage that teaches on maturity and spiritual growth is in a context of relationship.

"For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, *ye are God's building.*"
1 Corinthians 3:9 KJV

“Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints,
and of the household of God;
And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being
the chief corner stone;
*In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:
In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”*
Ephesians 2: 19-22 KJV

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors
and teachers;
For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the *edifying* of the body of
Christ:
Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a
perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:
That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every
wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to
deceive;
But speaking the truth in love, may *grow up* into him in all things, which is the head, even
Christ:
From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every
joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, *maketh
increase of the body unto the edifying of itself* in love.”
Ephesians 4:11-16 KJV

“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:
rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding
therein with thanksgiving.”
Colossians 2: 6-7 KJV

5. The Devil hates covenant relationships and seeks to divide and disrupt them
because they contain the power to dislodge his kingdom.

- a. Betrayal
- b. Accusation (Suspicion)
- c. Abandonment
- d. Mistrust

6. Once we know the rock of revelation is laid, we ought to seek to “join” the
“members” to their proper setting. E.G. Abraham *looked for* a city whose Builder
and Maker is God. (Hebrews 11:10)

7. Clues to proper relational placement

- a. It feels like “home”.
- b. There is relational “credit history” in place.
- c. The mission and core values resonate in our own heart.

- d. There's a spiritual "stretching" involved.
- e. Touching this family brings "life".

C. God Builds Generationally

1. It's all about a Father and a Son.
 - a. God made all things by Christ and for Christ and in the end, sums up all things in Christ. (Hebrews 1:1-3; Proverbs 8:22-31; John 1:1-3; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:16-17)
 - b. All things are gathered unto Him. (Ephesians 1:10)
 - c. As we have learned, God's ultimate purpose is a family where all members are "conformed to the image of His Son". (Romans 8:28-30)
2. God's answer to the human predicament: send a Son!
 - a. He sent His Son. (Galatians 4:4)
 - b. When His name was misused, His person misunderstood, and His message lost and obscured, He sent His Son.
 - c. The first thing He does for us in regeneration is to give us "power to become the sons of God." (John 1:12)
3. Paul follows God's example.
 - a. Paul, an apostle and church planter, knew God was a builder and that he had to build God's way.
 - b. Paul called himself a "wise master builder" (1 Corinthians 3:10), using the Greek word "arkitekton", from which we get the English words "architect" and "architecture".
 - c. When Paul had troubles and couldn't go himself, he sent a spiritual son to the situation.

"Be ye followers of me...For this cause I have sent you Timothy, who is my beloved son, faithful in the Lord, who will bring you into remembrance of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere..."

1 Corinthians 4:16-17 KJV
4. God also "keeps" (guards) the city through sons!

“Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city,
the watchman waketh but in vain.

It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his
beloved sleep.

Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.

Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but *they shall speak
with the enemies in the gates.*”

Psalm 127 KJV

Ultimately, it’s the next generation that must guard the house and defend it
against its enemies; God “keeps” the city through the sons and daughters of the
city!

III. Sons or Servants?

A. Learning to Build God’s Way: On Sons Instead of Servants

“Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of
our profession, Christ Jesus;

Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house.

And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant,

*But Christ (was faithful) as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the
confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.”*

Excerpts from Hebrews 3:1-2; 5-6 KJV

Hebrews, the “book of better things”, here compares the ministry of Moses to the
ministry of Christ.

1. Both were “heads” of their “house”.
2. Both were faithful.
3. The contrast is in HOW they were faithful.
 - a. Moses was faithful as a “servant”.
 - b. Christ was faithful as a “son”.
4. This clearly illustrates the superiority of:
 - a. The ministry of Christ over Moses
 - b. New Testament ministry over Old Testament ministry
 - c. Serving as a SON over serving as a SERVANT
5. Generational building means we have to build a “spirit of sonship”
into the house!

B. Ten Contrasts Between Sons and Servants

1. Sons adopt the family vision and values; servants maintain an independent spirit.
2. Sons totally trust their fathers and leaders; servants are continually suspicious, tentative, and critically observant.
3. Sons receive correction and endure discipline; servants chafe at authority and mistake it as “controlling” or “abusive”.
4. Sons are family oriented; servants are issues oriented.
5. Sons are secure in their sonship; servants are continually plagued by fear and insecurities.
6. Sons honor headship and the chain of command; servants don’t even understand it.
7. Sons labor to bond new people to the family; servants try to bond new people to themselves.
8. Sons know how to walk in the light and appeal to authority when necessary; servants fear authority and complain about their issues outside the family.
9. Sons lay down their lives for the flock; servants and hirelings run away when the “wolf” comes.
10. Sons understand and value generational concepts; servants and hirelings live only “for the moment”.

IV. Conclusion

- A. The prophetic view of scripture demands a revelation of the transcendent purposes of God.
- B. We must understand what God building, *spiritual family*, from Genesis to Revelation.
- C. We must know how God is building - *revelationally, relationally and generationally*.
- D. We must understand how He “guards” or “keeps” what He builds, through *sons*.
- E. At the end of the day, we’re either building God’s way, (the City of God), or man’s way, (the City of Man)....Guess which one works?