

## Sermon Notes – 07.24.2022 Growing the Church

### A follow Up for “The Ministry of Edification”

#### The First “Building Up” is our Faith and Our Walk

**Jude 1:20-21** But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

#### Make Sure What Is Growing is the Church – The Body of Christ

**Ephesians 4:11-15** And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,

#### Christ is the Builder of this Mystical “Body of Christ” Which Is Us

**Matthew 16:15-19** He \*said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" **16** Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." **17** And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. **18** "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. 19 "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."

- Whether In Spiritual Strength and Health or in Size – Christ Must Be the Builder

**Psalms 127:1** "Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it..."

#### God Gives the Increase – We are Called to “Plant” and “Water”

**1 Corinthians 3:1-9** And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. **2** I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able *to receive it*. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, **3** for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not *fleshly*, and are you not *walking like mere men*? **4** For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not *mere* men? **5** What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave *opportunity* to each one. **6** I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. **7** So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. **8** Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. **9** For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

- **Fleshliness** -Arguments, Divisions, and Rivalry to “Put Our Chin Above Another,” Make Us “Mere men” (Ordinary Humans). God’s family is a household full of redeemed people.
- **God gave the increase** - God caused the seed sown to take root and spring up; and God blessed the irrigation of the tender plants as they sprung up, and caused them to grow. This idea is still taken from the farmer.... It is adapted, indeed, to this, and the seed would not germinate if it was not planted, nor grow if it was not watered; but the life is still from God. ~ Albert Barnes
- **What is Planting and Watering for Us? Prayers, Words, and Deeds Empowered by God**

**For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. 1 Corinthians 3:9**

**Ephesians 4:15-16** but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, **causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.**

- **God’s grace is at work in the church to cause it to build itself up**

**We Are All Called to Build the Church – An “Arms-Reach” Opportunity to Build Something Universal**

**1 Corinthians 3:10-16** According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. 11 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now **if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13** each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. 14 **If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. 15** If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. 16 **Do you not know that you are a temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?**

**Perseverance is Needed**

Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. 10 So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith. **Galatians 6:9-10**

**We Do What We Do Because of Who We Are in Christ**

**1 Corinthians 9:23** I do all things **for the sake of the gospel.**...

**2 Corinthians 12:15** I will most gladly spend and be expended **for your souls.**

**2 Corinthians 12:10** Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, **for Christ's sake;**