



Title: Gospel Architecture (First Corinthians #7)

Text: 1 Corinthians 3:10-17

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Intro: In 1 Corinthians 3:10-17, Paul focuses on the importance of building the church wisely upon the foundation of Jesus Christ. In our day of obsession with pragmatism in which churches are often willing to do whatever it takes to increase their attendance, these truths are desperately needed.

Introductory thoughts:

1. The Bible is written first to a people in community, not to isolated individuals. This doesn't mean that the Bible is not personally applicable, it is! But, God's plan of redemption is not just the saving of individuals, but the creating of a people for the display of His glory.
2. We are Americans and have woven into our DNA rugged individualism. Our first instinct as we look at the Scriptures or God is to think—what is this saying to me? Thus, it is often challenging for us to see the Bible as written first to a people in interdependent community.

1. JESUS IS THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH.

A). Christ-Centered Ethos

Christ Exalting
Gospel Centered
Bible Saturated
Spirit Empowered
Pervasive Humility
Radical Generosity
Grace-filled Patience
Intentional Simplicity

B). Wise carefulness—“take care how you build”

- Our culture has in many ways made us addicted to instant gratification and immediate results. The storyline of the Bible however pictures God as patient, long-suffering and growth and progress as usually painful, slow and hard.
- Ephesians 5:15-17

C). An exhortation to several subsets of CrossPointe.

1. People that have been at CP for a long time. This is Jesus' church, not ours. The goal has never been a cozy community where you can find your place in a safe social circle. We must continually push ourselves to get outside of our comfort zones and be on a mission for Jesus.

2. People that have recently come from other churches. We are humbled and grateful God sent you our way. Be wise about your new church choice, but not idolatrous. You run the danger of slipping into consumerism. Don't compare this church to the one you came from or expect it to meet the romantic ideals of a church from your past. That can easily become idolatry with you and your preferences being the idol. Don't coddle your past bad experience and make it the truest and loudest thing about you.

2. IT'S POSSIBLE TO HAVE THE RIGHT FOUNDATION AND BUILD THE WRONG WAY.

A). DOTS vs. LINES: Wise and unwise trajectories.

- Dots rarely stay dots. They connect and become lines.
- Things can seem prudent in the moment but are ultimately unwise for a church long-term.

B). It is important that we remember our theological convictions as we build.

- This is Christ's church, not ours. Therefore, it is for him, not us, or the seeker.
- He makes it grow, not us. Our role is to be faithful to the Gospel.

C). There are many personal applications.

- How are we engineering our lives? What are we spending our time on? What type of materials are we using to build the structure of our lives.

3. WHAT WE DO IN THIS LIFE MATTERS.

A). The reality of judgment for everyone.

1. Christ will be the Judge

- 2 Tim 4:1
- Acts 10:42
- John 5:26-27

2. Unbelievers will be judged

- Romans 2:5-7
- Matt 25:31-46

3. Believers will be judged, but in a different sense.

- Romans 14:10-12
- 2 Cor 5:6-10
- Romans 8:1
- John 5:24

4. The Believer's Judgment is good because it brings glory to Christ.

- Why our sloppy work being burned up is a good thing!
- Any jealousy is evidence of our remaining self-centeredness.

B). Pastors and Teachers should take heed because they will face a stricter judgment.

- Hebrews 13:17
- James 3:1

4. GOD TAKES HIS CHURCH VERY SERIOUSLY.

A). How do we destroy the body of Christ?—even if unintentional.

- Not serving.
- Cynicism.
- Coddling past hurts and bad experiences. When we esteem our pain over Jesus', we are in essence saying that our pain is more important than his death. This is idolatry.
- By not truly giving yourself to the life of your church.

B). Spurgeon Quote:

"After a true Christian has given himself or herself to the Lord, the very next act should be to give themselves to the Christian Church; they should at once assay, as Paul did, to be united to the brethren of Christ. Somewhere in the district where he lives, if there be a Christian church, the newborn believer should at once seek fellowship with others who love his Lord, because saved by his grace. The right way to do this is to give himself. Not his name, his money, not his mere presence, his sympathy, his active labours: all these are part of the gift; but the soul of it all is, to give himself. In the whole force and weight of his influence, personality, and ability, so far as God shall help him, he is to give up to the Church." –C.H.Spurgeon, from a sermon preached on 2 Cor 8:5 (October 24, 1869)