

“Built Together Part 1 - Series Introduction” (8-20-23)

Introduction: Building update / Possible timeline

The actual building is the people of God: So vital that we continue to recognize this, & grow into who God is calling us to be as individuals, as a local church, & as participants in the Church in Knoxville and beyond.

1) God is the builder

bânâh (H1129) verb, 376x: to build, construct, rebuild, establish, cause to continue

Genesis 2:22 (ESV)

And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he **made** into a woman and brought her to the man.

Note: The first thing God “made” (built/constructed) was a connected family

Psalms 127:1 (ESV)

A Song of Ascents. Of Solomon. Unless the LORD **builds** the house, those who **build** it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

Note: Any building worth creating, should not be undertaken on our own. God is the ultimate builder.

oikodomē (G3619) noun, 18x in NT: a building, the act of building, spiritual metaphor - edifying (building up!)

*Matt 24 & Mark 13 - the disciples call Jesus’ attention to the temple buildings

2 Corinthians 5:1 (ESV)

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a **building** from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Note: God is building something eternal, let’s participate in that!

2) We are being built together

Ephesians 2:19-22 (ESV)

(19) So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, (20) built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, (21) in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. (22) In him you also are being **built together** into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Note: We are a part of a larger whole, with Christ as the foundation, and roots that go way back!

Last Sunday was a beautiful picture of this!

sunoikodomeō (G4925) verb, 1x in NT: to build in company with someone

1) to build together or with others

2) to put together or construct by building, out of several things to build up one whole

Our series title is from a Greek Verb - this is about **action**. Participate in the building, be a part of it!

3) Let's Build

Ephesians 2:8-10 (ESV)

(8) For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, (9) not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (10) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Note: By God's Grace we are in his household and are being shaped by him, so let's participate in the work!

Participate: Being a part of His Church is not a spectator sport. We ought to roll up our sleeves and fulfill our part in building up the church!

- **Participate in Loving Community**

Romans 14:19 (ESV)

So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual **upbuilding**.

Note: Relational - sacrificial love

Loving the body of Christ & walking in community is more than just good feelings towards each other!

Do I love through sacrificial action?

- **Grow in your gifts and callings**

1 Corinthians 14:3 (ESV)

On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their **upbuilding** and encouragement and consolation.

Note: Grow in gifting - used for the building up of the whole (not my own name, status, or importance)

- **Mature in your faith** - Godly character should be increasing

Colossians 2:6-8 (ESV)

(6) Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, (7) rooted and **built up** in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. (8) See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

Note: We need to be grounded in our faith, so what is built in us doesn't topple!

katastrophē (g2692) the opposite (antonym): overthrow, subverting, destruction

Used twice in NT (1x by Paul & 1x by Peter) both times warning about False Prophets & Teachers

Peter compares their fate to Sodom's destruction (2 Peter 2:6), & **Paul** warns Timothy . . .

2 Timothy 2:14-15 (ESV)

(14) Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only **ruins** the hearers. (15) Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:16-17a (ESV)

(16) But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, (17) and their talk will spread like gangrene.

This is similar to Paul's warning in his first letter to Timothy . . .

1 Timothy 1:6-7 (ESV)

(6) Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, (7) desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.

Note: Being built up (growing in maturity) happens in the context of Biblical Community and it is the anti-dote to the catastrophic falls that are sadly so prevalent in our day.

Conclusion: God is the builder of the church, we are called to participate, so let's grow in relationship, gifting, and character.

Acts 9:26-31 (ESV)

(26) And when he (Paul) had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. (27) But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. (28) So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. (29) And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him. (30) And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus. (31) So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had **peace** and was being **built up**. And walking in the **fear of the Lord** and in the **comfort of the Holy Spirit**, it multiplied.

Note: There will always be internal & external challenges to the building up of the church. But when we rely on the Lord, and we participate in the work we are called to, we find ourselves being built together!

- Who is God calling me to be? How does he want to stretch and grow me?
- What's my part in the local body - how can I love, serve, and impact?
- What's our part in the larger community in Knoxville and beyond?