



Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians
Wk. 9 Building Something that Lasts
By Pastor Jody May 06/22/2025

1 Corinthians 1:25 - For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Uncommon Sense - *"God's Wisdom over man's pride through a Flawed Church."*

[CALL TO HEAR]

1 Corinthians 3:10-17 ESV

Divisions in the Church

¹⁰ According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. ¹¹ For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— ¹³ each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. ¹⁴ If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

Pastor - "People of God, this is the Word of God."

People - "Thanks be to God."

Pray

Illustration

So, Heather and I have been in our home now for 17 years now, and we had that home built so that is exactly the age of it. Over the last 7 years we have come to deal with those things that begin to break down, cracks in the cement, a worn-out black top that needs replacing, porch reconditioning, total house repainting, mailbox replacement, two ACs replaced, 1 fridge, 1 microwave, 1 dishwasher, 2 water heaters, a washing machine and dryer, plus a plethora of smaller things here and there. As much as I love our home and



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where we live and how we live, I HATE that I am constantly having to replace faulty things. It is a constant reminder that nothing we build here on earth is permanent, and it is best not to put my hope in man-made modern machinery. Nothing I have in that home has the ability to last a lifetime, NOTHING!

As a reminder to that fact, I have something that greets me every day when I get home. When you pull up to my garage in the front if you look down along the bottom, you will find where nails are beginning to rust through the hardy plank. So, having to deal with always fixing something around my home it is infuriating that for some reason I guess my home builder did not use galvanized nails around the base of that area? I mean seriously!? Like on top of all the internal things that I have fixed these nails again portray to me, that over time, all things will be put through a trial to determine their worth.

This all reminds of another truth that makes me smile, that I am glad that my home is judged not on how well it lasts over time but how much my property is in demand. The tax accessor and the real-estate market place a value on my house built on worldly markets of community growth, and that's good thing; Because if we placed value in our homes based on how well they last, I think we all would be on the losing end of the deal, right!?

Introduction

I bring that up to say in light of our passage today all of us are building a spiritual home, and you are the sole possessor of it, ¹⁶Do you not know that you are **God's temple**. That home though is not yours, its' just a rental, and one day God will hold us accountable for what we did with it. Did we seek to improve it, did we add to its' value, did we take care of it, or did we neglect it, mismanage it, and in a worst-case scenario actively seek to devalue the property of God? The Bible teaches us that our lives will be judged by how well our testimonies withstood the test of time. Did we establish those dwellings with good things or shabby things. As you will see later on, as going through Corinthians, the reason that matters is because that effects the **amount of Glory you bring to God**, that affects your **ability to be a witness** in this world, and that has **eternal ramifications** as to how your future eternal



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life will play out! To sum it up nicely this morning let me give you the main point:

MP:

**The Church houses the Temple of God therefore
Build it with appropriate fear.**

So, we are going to look at three aspects of this building process that Paul gives us today: building on a Sure Foundation, Establishing that Temple with durable and lasting materials and why that matters, and lastly resting on the Architect for His part of the job. So, let's start building!

1. Building the Church on a Sure Foundation.

¹⁰ According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a **foundation**, and someone else is building upon it. Let **each one** take care how he builds upon it. ¹¹ For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is **Jesus Christ**.

We have 2 Steps on Building this Sure Foundation:

Step 1 Embrace the Foundation of Christ, that's it...

Review: Ok so now that Paul has cleared up some of man's wisdom from last week on the frivolity of arguing over who is the better pastor/evangelist/church leader. That came from the Corinthian church refusing to Grow up, even though it is hard to do. While you need the milk of the Gospel every day, you also need to include the meat of righteous living and pursuing holiness or else you can never become the mature church that God is calling us to be.

This problem was made evident in their arguing between who/why they followed Paul or Apollos. Paul clears that up with an explanation that there is no difference, both men are servants, and both performed a task as servants for God, and what they performed was a service preordained by God to work in His field. **Jesus is the one that gets the credit for anything.** That btw has become a major theme every week, it seems that Paul is straightening out



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some foolish man wisdom in each address and then he sums it back up in Christ. As you will see shortly that will be no difference for this week as well.

Paul says here today in vs. 10 *“According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a **foundation**, [θεμέλιος (themelios) same word that Jesus used in Luke to describe the person that builds his life on Him, not shifting sand]”¹*

Luke 6:48 ESV

⁴⁸he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the **foundation** on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.

That is step one of Grow Up, embrace the Foundation upon which Paul is building God’s Church. And in accordance with what Jesus taught about Himself, what is this Foundation made up of? (What version of Jesus does the modern church use?)

1 Cor 1:23 – *“but we preach **Christ crucified**, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles”*

The Foundation is Christ Crucified; that’s it. The Gospel is anchored on and built on Christ the cornerstone and this cornerstone was hewed from the Rock of Ages (Is 26:4). The strongest substance in all of creation: it has the ability to shatter worldly thrones (Daniel 2), it causes the false teachers to trip and lose their so-called sure footing (Is 8:14), and it could bear the law of the covenant to be written upon it (Exodus 20) never to break under its’ weight. That Foundation is Christ Crucified, that Image/Symbol/Historical Fact proclaims **man’s need of God not God’s need of man**, for in Christ Crucified it states man’s wisdom, his schemes, and his planning, cannot save him. That is the Foundation Paul laid, that is the foundation that cannot be removed even if one tried, BUT it can be misused if not built upon rightly.

¹ **2529** θεμέλιος (themelios), ου (ou), ό (ho): n.masc. [see also 2528]; ≡ Str 2310–**1**. LN 7.41 **foundation** (Lk 6:48, 49; 14:29; Ro 15:20; 1Co 3:10, 11, 12; Eph 2:20; 2Ti 2:19; Heb 11:10; Rev 21:19+), note: sources differ between gender of 2528 and 2529; **2**. LN 7.43 **foundation stone** (Rev 21:14+). James Swanson, [Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek \(New Testament\)](#) (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).



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Family, again that brings up this point that I think is good to always keep in our minds as we talk to the lost found among, coworkers, friends, and family. You can spend a lot of time letting people argue with you about apologetics, social issues of the day, and philosophical assumptions placed on the Bible, but in the end of it there must be shown the need of a sure foundation.

People need to hear more about their need for Christ, the removal of their sins and the gaining of His righteousness, more than they need to have all their questions answered.

If you embark to answer every argument an agnostic has then you will most likely never get to the end of that. Those arguments actually cloak their attempts for self-justification, denial of culpability in sin, and you can't answer that anyways for that is the HS's job. Preach Christ and preach Christ crucified. ² Learn the basics of the Gospel more, memorize those passages, that will serve you best in the world in which we live.

Step 2 Warn Anyone that attempts to build on it...

Paul then has a warning that goes along with this declaring of the sure foundation. ¹⁰ ... *someone else is building upon it. Let each one **take care** how he builds upon it.* ¹¹ *For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is **Jesus Christ**.* Foundation has been laid, that's not coming up, it's not getting washed away, but you can do some wonky building on it, stuff way out of code if one is not careful.

The saving quality of this sure foundation is if you try to build what you want on it, it won't stand on this rock. The more a structure hangs out over and away from the foundation, the more stress/weight put on its' frame that it will eventually collapse and fall apart (think JENGA). Works that way in churches AND denominations; people may start off well-intentioned but the farther away they get from the foundation of Christ crucified, and again the need for a Savior, the more like a cult you look like. Eventually the weight that is being put on the body, and not on Christ, will cause it to self-destruct or it will become unusable for the Cause of Christ and become instead a den of demons.

² <https://www.highlandsc.com/sermons/sermon-on-the-mount-week-27-judge-with-right-judgment/>



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I have been around churches that have gone through the devastation of losing a lead elder or pastor to sin BUT because of the Foundation being built on Christ Crucified those churches survived and some even went on to get healthier (Cross City in Cartersville, Prays Mill in Douglasville) I have also seen churches collapse when they were built on personalities, yes men, and too much motivation to grow for the sake of size, money, and prestige.

For us as HCC we have to ensure the Foundation that we are laying is Christ Crucified alone. That is why we hold to a confession, that is why we rely on a plurality of elders, that is why we preach through books of the Bible to teach the whole truth and not pass over difficult passages. If we want to see this church in the years to come to be a place for refuge for God's people, we have to put in some sweat equity now to ensure this.

MP reworded: Ensuring the church is built on a Sure Foundation is Phase 1 of building with the appropriate fear of God.

2. Establishing the Church with Proper Materials.

¹²Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— ¹³each one's work will become manifest, for the **Day** will disclose it, because it will be **revealed by fire**, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. ¹⁴If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward.

We see Paul spend a lot of time in these next few lines making sure we understand a reckoning is coming! That's important, one of Paul's big teaching points in most of his epistles is he lives in light of an eternal life, he knows existence in continual, but before that happens there is a judgement for all. We will get to that more in a moment just know that is a reality for all the Apostles, and as we said last week that's a pure source take that fact to the bank. What I don't want to miss is v.12 is the division of building supplies and the implications of it because that opens up vs.13-15 a little more.

'WE' strive to build with the most durable materials.



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¹² **Now if anyone builds on the foundation** with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—

Paul now moves on from a position of only warning church leadership to warning **anyone**. Now that goes back then to the intent of the letter, “I appeal to **YOU** brothers,” (1:10). That is 2nd person plural, Paul is talking to the whole church and is saying any advice I give to church leadership is also for YOU. ‘If anyone’ is code for *you all listen now*, I want you to be aware of what I am saying next. The expectation is that Paul knows **the future of the church** is not just based in church leadership but **based in its’ congregants, its’ members**. This connects nicely from last week now, it means OUR next steps in adding to OUR milk diet, Christ Crucified, is to build with the right materials.

Two categories of building materials here: there are those things that are more durable and those things that are not. We have in that first list gold, silver, and precious stones. First, we know from the Bible that these things are the things that we see in the visions of the new city, Capital of God’s Kingdom, in the Book of Revelation (Rev 21:18-21). It is what will be used in the structures, whether that is metaphor or real, probably a little of both, but we see these things have **eternal value they don’t fade**. Secondly through scripture we always see this image of [God’s Refining Fire](#), where God puts people to the test to burn off the world, to get people to their purity, their holiness. These things that we are supposed to use to build on the Foundation of **Christ are pure things, enduring, lasting through time.**

We strive to refrain from the cheapest materials. The other materials we see here are things that would not last in a fire: wood, hay, and straw. As a matter of fact, you were taught a story growing up that taught you the value of building with these products. Need I remind you that these things offered no protection from the Big Bad Wolf!

We live knowing we will be judged for how we ALL build.

¹³ **each one’s work** will become manifest, for the **Day** will disclose it, because it will be **revealed by fire, and the fire will test** what sort of work each one has done. ¹⁴ *If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward.*



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All right Paul says each one's work, no way around that now, ALL will be held accountable for what? **For how you built not just your life but your life in the church.** The work that you contribute to the building of the church will be taken into consideration on the DAY, that means judgment day, when all Christians will stand before the [throne of Jesus and be judged](#) (2 Cor 5:10; Romans 14:10; 2 Pet 3:10) on what they did. It's not just what you did in your own life, but how you lived that life in the church, again that's the context here. The meaning conveys that Jesus will way out, judge, based on the materials you helped to build His Kingdom.

Family let me just point out two things for us today:

First, let me invite you into Kingdom living not just Kingdom existing, as I said last week to become producers not just consumers. Here's the call for everyone in here, Paul is making the statement that for us we will be held accountable for what we do here on earth. It will be hard to stand in front of the Lord of Glory to give that account without ever committing to the life and blood of a local church. God calls on each and every one of us to build on the Foundation of His Son, add to the Glory of His Son, and that offer is given **predominantly through** the collective lives in the church!

Second let me put in your mind the future ramifications of that judgment.

As people who believe that we are saved by Grace Alone, through Faith Alone, through the administrations of Christ alone, it may be hard to accept this point, but we will be rewarded for how we lived our lives here on earth. Jesus taught us that in the SoM in Mat 6:20 *we are **store up for ourselves treasures in heaven where nothing can rot them or taint them.*** Paul builds on this theme more in Romans.

Romans 6:6-10 ESV

⁶He will **render to each one according to his works:** ⁷to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; - ¹⁰but **glory and honor and peace** for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek.

And let me tell you, the more labor you have put forth for the kingdom of heaven, the more degrees of glory you shall have. As there are degrees of



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*torment in hell (Mat 23:14), so of glory in heaven. As one star differs from another in glory, so shall one saint (1 Cor 15:41). Though every vessel of mercy shall be full, yet one may hold more than another. (A body of Practical Divinity, 32 – **Puritan Thomas Watson**)*

The point is the reward of glory and honor is not what we strive for ourselves, but those things are rewarded to us **when we work to apply them to Christ**. That is what you get when you work to build on the Foundation the right way, in tandem with others, Jesus' church to bring Him that glory and honor.

MP: Establishing the church with right materials, with the church, builds the temple corporately, fearing God rightly.

3. Resting in the Church's True Architect.

¹⁵If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, **though he himself will be saved**, but only as through fire. ¹⁶Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? ¹⁷If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

vs. 15 – so after a warning of future judgment Paul wants to remind the Corinthians, and it is a good reminder for us as well, that this future judgment does not endanger your eternal justification, or the status of being saved. Jesus said, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life."* (John 5:24) Family let us rest in the grand architect of the church, even if we didn't build the best spiritual house on this side of eternity, Jesus will never let that remove us from His grace, you have that forever!

But Paul does want to remind people of the seriousness of their lives. **vs. 16** You are housing the Spirit of God inside of you, that is what makes you Holy and sets you apart, this is why you should have the proper fear when you are building on the Foundation of Christ Crucified. **Who you are dictates how serious you should take this life.** And Woe to those that don't heed this warning.



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*¹⁷ If anyone **destroys** God's temple, God will **destroy** him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.*

The architect not only judges His people, His builders, His church but He judges those not of the church that seek to harm it. What God has made Holy woe to that person that defiles it. This is a good reminder that we are to let the architect worry about the offenders while we worry about building on the sure foundation.

Romans 12:19-21 ESV

¹⁹ Beloved, **never avenge yourselves**, but leave it to the **wrath of God**, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, **I will repay**, says the Lord." ²⁰ To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

You see folks the truth is you never really know who an enemy is. Sometimes what we call an enemy God calls a future brother or sister. If we identify an enemy our strategy is attack with love, care, and patience. That was Jesus' strategy, and it is our too, for in us too is this same Spirit that dwelled in Christ; let us not defame that testimony. Part of building with precious long-lasting materials is doing the hard things that God calls us to do in scripture. To attack people, that's what the world does, those things will be burned away in the judgment of Christ.

MP:

**The Church houses the Temple of God therefore
Build it with appropriate fear.**

[CALL TO OBEY]

This week I want to offer to you some suggestions as to what type of things are those permanent things we see there in v. 12. Things that get our focus off merely serving ourselves and going after those that try to harm us. So, that when we stand before Christ, we will be glad to hear that we spent our lives going about it the right way, bringing Christ glory!



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These next suggestions come from Andy Davis³ and his book entitled *The Glory Now Revealed*.⁴ In that book there is a simple list/suggestions, of good works we could pursue every day of our Christian lives. These are things living out of affections for Jesus, to work towards revealing His glory, things that are permanent and long lasting.

- Anything that can be done for the glory of God (even simple daily tasks 1 Cor 10:31)
 - Chores around the home
 - Going to work and being a good employee
 - Being the best friend and fam member you can be
- Humble Servanthood (Matt 20:26-28; Heb 6:10)
 - Serving the body when no one sees it, and no one cares
 - Serving other Christians honoring their calling for God
 - Treating others as more significant than yourself (Phil 2:3-4)
- Sacrificial giving (2 Sam 24:24; Luke 21:3; 2 Cor 9:6-7)
 - Giving when it means you go without, but the Kingdom is benefitted
 - Choosing to give up a personal item or desire for something the church needs
 - This Wednesday the church will be packing lunches for the CAYA summer lunch program at 6:30, and that we still need donations (in the newsletter)
- Advancing the Gospel and putting that 1st in your mind (1 Thes 2:19; mat 10:42)
 - Helping others advance the Gospel
 - Training ourselves to pray thine Kingdom Come first all the time

³ Andrew M. Davis (PhD, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary) is the senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Durham, North Carolina, and the founder of Two Journeys Ministry. He is also a visiting professor of church history at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, a council member of the Gospel Coalition, and a former trustee of the International Mission Board.

⁴ https://www.amazon.com/Glory-Now-Revealed-Discover-Heaven/dp/1540901041/ref=sr_1_1?crid=35PWKQCENJ0DPT&dib=eyJ2ljojMSJ9.oWZ4O67yRydzRhkX3IMZNbGg5Vui0q1Mymg_okoNtL5-QIV3ohPgpTUhEX40qlwxBH2cybu5iXC6uAN3koeqi7N7oIk95VSUBkM_oaV0VVY.9klaHPKahONgtJfZDHBAPv2drLqMrPbAPw7LvXvUFHo&dib_tag=se&keywords=andy+davis+the+glory+now+revealed&qid=1750435963&s_prefix=andy+davis+the+glory+now+revealed%2Caps%2C74&sr=8-1



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- Secret Acts of Piety – fasting, prayer, and meditation (Mat 6:6,18)

MP:

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Build it with appropriate fear.**

Prayer

Communion

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 ESV

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Today when you eat of the bread remember the life of Jesus which was lived for us. The Lord lived His life in a way that not only gave us the Firm Foundation, but then He modeled for us what it looks like to build upon it. He loved others while they were enemies first, He loved when others reviled Him, and He loved others when He had the right to revile back. Praise be to Him for His Selfless Ways.

Today when you drink the juice remember the cost of our sin displayed by His blood for the new covenant. Family, we have no one to blame but ourselves for trying to use Jesus to get ahead in this world. We have used our rock to further our lives as we wanted, we used His grace to enrich our own lives, and we all have neglected to love others as we should. His blood for us is the payment so now we can begin to build again. Praise be to Him for His wonderful love.

[CONFESSION OF FAITH]



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* The Congregation will stand

Elder – “Christians, what do we believe?”

London Baptist Confession of Faith 1689 Chapter 26 Paragraph 7. God Empowers His Churches to Worship Him Rightly

To every church that gathers in a way that is according to Christ's mind declared in his Word, He has given all power and authority that is needed to carry out proper worship and discipline, which He has instituted for them to observe. He has given them commands and rules to use to execute that power rightly. 14

14. Matthew 18:17-18; 1 Corinthians 5:4-5, 5:13, 2 Corinthians 2:6-8

[OFFERING+LAST SONG]

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that provided the sure foundation for our lives without demanding its' cost but instead granting us beneficiaries of His goodness.

Go in the name of the Son, that set the foundation of him crucified in our lives, so that what we build for His name's sake will not be destroyed.

Go in the name of and power of the HS, who uses the efforts of every Christian to build the Kingdom, who corrects our lives when off set, and empowers us to share the good news with others.



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