

The Church Of The Bible

Lesson 2

The Name And Building of The Church

Introduction

- **Upon this rock I will build my assembly**
- **If the church is not an institution,**
 - **It should not have an institutional name**
- **An assembly is to be “built” not “established”,**
- **What is the correct “name”?**
- **How is the church built?**

Identifying Characteristics

- The true church is identified by the nature of its people
 - Redeemed – brought back from the error of their ways
 - Sanctified – Dedicated to the service of God
 - Jesus enthroned in their hearts as Lord
 - “They smell like Christ”
 - *For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. (2 Cor. 2:15)*
- The identifying trait
 - *By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. “ (John 13:35)*

Names?

- You have to call us something
- To distinguish God's people from others
- For legal compliance
- The most common – “Church of Christ”
 - “Christian” – Stone
 - “Church of Christ” – Campbell
 - Others – The Family, The Church,

Names given for practical matters must not become the biblical institutional name

Biblical “Designations”

- Simply “church” or “churches” (109 times in the NT)
- Church of God – **Gal. 1:13**
- The church of the Lord – **Acts 20:28**
- The churches of God – **1 Cor. 11:16**
- The churches of Christ – **Rom. 16:16**
- Churches of the saints – **1 Cor. 14:33**

Remember “church” is “assembly”.

Building The Church

- *Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.*
- *And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. (Matt. 16:16-18)*

Building An Assembly

- **A common cause that draws individuals together**
- **As people are drawn, the assembly grows – is being built**
- **The building continues as long as people are drawn**
- **People are drawn as long as the common cause is proclaimed**

Not a one time event, but rather a process.

The Foundation

- Upon this rock – the deity of Christ
- *For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 3:11)*
- *Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. (Eph. 2:19-20)*

Building Materials

- “You who come to him”
- *As you come to him, the living Stone--rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him-- you also, like living stones, are being built into a “spiritual house” to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2:4-6)*
- *For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. (1 Cor. 3:9)*

Living Stones

- **A spiritual house**
 - Christ the “living” cornerstone
 - Christians the “living” building stones
- **A “living” organism – not an inanimate organization**

Different Stones

- **Different talents and interests**
 - *We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.. (Rom. 12:6-8)*
 - *Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. (1 Cor. 12:7)*
- **Different kinds of service & workings**
 - *There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. (1 Cor. 12:5-6)*

One Body – Many Members

- Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.
Romans 12:4-5 (NIV)
- *these members do not all have the same function,*
- *so in Christ we who are many form one body, and*
- *each member belongs to all the others.*

A Variety Of Talents

- *We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.*
- *If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith.*
- *If it is serving, let him serve;*
- *If it is teaching, let him teach;*
- *If it is encouraging, let him encourage;*
- *If it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously;*
- *If it is leadership, let him govern diligently;*
- *If it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. **Romans 12:4-8 (NI***

The Building Process

- **God/Christ does the building**
- *Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. (Acts 2:41)*
- **Those who accept the Gospel message are added to the assembly of believers**
- **The accepting and adding are the same building step**

The Builder

- The individual stones are all different but they fit together perfectly
- *But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. (1 Cor. 12:18)*

When Did The Building Start?

- **Note: it was a building process not an “establishing” event**
- **I “will” build – after the discussion with Peter**
- **The “foundation” was not complete until Christ was resurrected**
- **Pentecost – the first responses to the resurrected savior**

Joined And Held Together

- *From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work. (Eph. 4:16)*
- **The parts are attached to the head – Christ**
- **Each part is a part of the whole and directly related to the others**
 - --- *so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. (Rom. 12:5)*

Brotherly Love

- Holds the building together
- Brothers with the Christ
 - *For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. (Rom. 8:29)*
- Loving and tolerating each other
 - *Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. (Jas. 5:9)*
 - *Keep on loving each other as brothers. (Heb. 13:1)*
 - *You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. (Rom. 14:10)*

Brotherhood

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Brotherhood

- Supporting each other spiritually
 - *Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. (Gal. 6:1)*
 - *It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall. (Rom.14:21)*
 - *Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. (1Peter 3:8)*

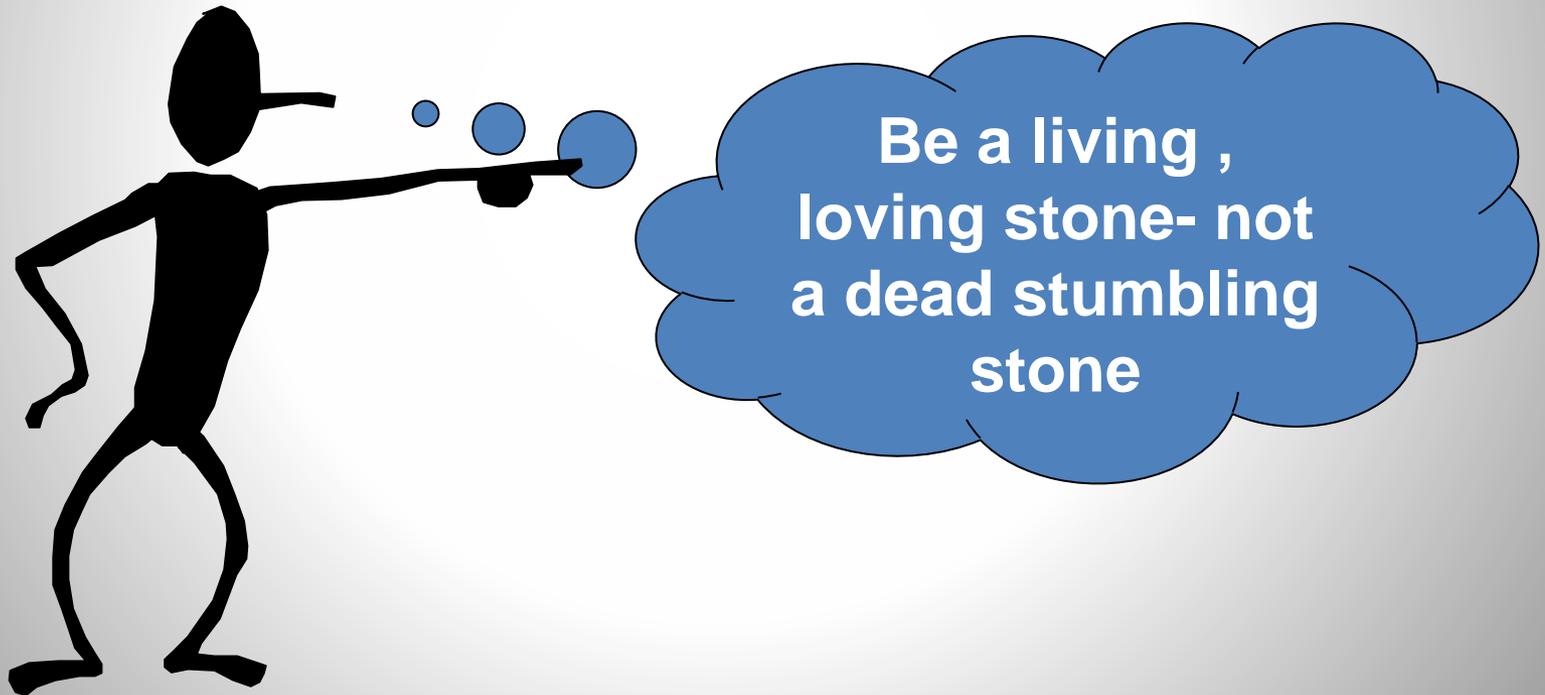
The Body Of Christ

- The church is not merely a free association of like minded religious individuals
- Christ is the head
 - *And he is the head of the body, the church; (Col. 1:18)*
- Each member is a part of the whole and directly related to the others
 - *--- so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. (Rom. 12:5)*

If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. (1 John 4:20)



But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9)



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Two Metaphors

- **A body – the body of Christ**
 - *Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. (1Cor. 12:27)*
- **A family – God’s family**
 - *For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? (1 Peter 4:17)*

God's Family

- **God is the father**
 - The guardian, sustainer, and provider
- **Christ is the only “natural child”**
 - The older brother (**Heb. 2:11**)
- **Christians are adopted brothers and sisters in the family**
 - A brotherhood
- **Brotherly love is the family characteristic**

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