

CALL to PRAYER - Pray that we would be workers together in the Kingdom - 1 Cor. 3:9; Matt. 9:38

Ephesians 2:19-22 - One Foundation

Intro - For many years I read blueprints in my job. They would tell me what I needed to know for my phase of the construction. But there were many things not included in my set of prints because my concern was the finishes. When I got to the job site the structure was already there. I wasn't a part of the foundation phase because I was in the finish part not the foundation part. But all the various trades were brought together with a unified purpose of building upon the finished foundation. God is building a Temple where He dwells and where His people dwell with Him. This Temple is being completed in phases. A lot of groundwork by OT prophets. The foundation was laid with Jesus & His Apostles. The church encompasses all the various finish aspects of God's Temple. The unity of Christianity is in its connectivity to the foundation. My intention today is to try and convey two simple but important truths. 1] - The foundation comes first and is not repeatable. 2] Christian unity comes by connectivity to the foundation.

THE FOUNDATION COMES FIRST

1. The Foundation is a PERSON
 - a. 2:20 - Jesus is the Foundation of the Church / God's Temple
 - b. 1 Cor. 3:11
 - i. *"Our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus..."* *"The church's on foundation..."*
 - c. Jesus is a firm Foundation - Isaiah 28:16
 - i. Jesus is the only "Place" to meet God
 - ii. He is the: Way ^{John 14:6} Door ^{John 10:9} Temple ^{John 2:19-21} ... Foundation
 1. The fixed place for worship is a PERSON
 - d. Jesus is the rejected Foundation.
 - i. Acts 4:10-12
 - e. Jesus is the chosen and precious Foundation.
 - i. 1 Peter 2:4-8
2. The Foundation is a PERSON but it is also made up of persons.
 - a. 2:20
 - b. The OT prophets did all the groundwork....NT Apostles are the foundation
 - c. The importance of the Apostles. They are foundational
 - i. Rev. 21:14
 - ii. 1 John 4:6 - to reject the Apostles is to reject God
 - iii. Luke 10:16
 - iv. Some people try to pit the Apostles against each other or against Christ.
 1. *"Well, that was just Paul..."*
 2. Paul was Jesus' Ambassador 1 Cor. 14:37 (foundation is interconnected)
 - d. The Christian faith is built upon the eyewitness testimony of the Apostles
 - i. 1 John 1:1-2
 - ii. The Apostles testimony and teaching are foundational

3. The Foundation comes first and is not repeatable
 - a. Jude 3 Heb. 1:1-2 2 Thess. 2:15
 - b. There are no Apostles & Prophets today
 - i. Beware of those trying to lay another foundation
 - ii. Many try to build an annex building not connected to the foundation
 - c. We are in the finish part, not the foundation part, of God's Temple
 - i. We are built upon the foundation that is already laid
4. God's Temple is a living structure
 - a. 2:21-22
 - b. Human pyramid 1 Peter 2:5 - living stones
 - c. A living structure built on spiritual truth -
 - i. John 4:20-24 not a physical location but a physical Person and a profession
 - ii. One faith built on one foundation 2:20

CHRISTIAN UNITY IS IN CONNECTIVITY TO THE FOUNDATION

- The last half of Eph. 2 is about unity....Ethnic barriers broken down
 - Christ brings an assortment of sinners together
 - He redeems them and unites them Rev. 5:9-10
- These sinners (from every tribe, language, people, and nation) are the living stones in God's Temple
 - The church is the finishing touch in God's Temple
 - We are the finish trades (if you will)
 - We are brought together not to lay the foundation but to finish and decorate the Temple
 - We are all different but they add decoration and beauty
- Christian unity comes from our common connectivity to the foundation
 - The church is not united by ethnicity by connectivity to the foundation
 - There is a common Person...a common purpose...common plan
 - There is a border to Christian unity
 - Unity is confined to the area of the foundation of the Apostles & prophets
 - Like a building build within a certain plot/plat
- All the various trades are unified around the Blueprint for the building that is built within a certain plot.
 - Christians are "*People of the Book*" (Islamic moniker for Christians)
 - Unity in authority. We are all built and are building on the same foundation
- If we are on the same foundation = unified. Leave the foundation and unity is lost
 - There is disunity when we don't follow the blueprint
 - There is disunity when we leave the foundation
 - Christian unity is in our connectivity to the foundation
- Pray that we stay within the perimeter of the Foundation and follow the Blueprint
 - Acts 2:42
 - 1 Tim. 3:15
 - One Body...One Building...on One plot who is the One Person Jesus Christ
 - one community holding one confession built on one foundation