

Building His Church: The Final Exam

1 Corinthians 12:27

- Write out this verse.
- What are the implications to this church family here at LifeWay if we really believe this?

Matthew 16:13-21

- What does it mean when Jesus said, "I give you the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven...?"
- What kind of active role does each of us play?

What are we building here at LifeWay as His Church Body?

Examine these scriptures as each relates to the Body of Christ:

- 1 Peter 2:4-5
- Ephesians 3:10

Do your own Bible search for scripture that talks about Christ as the **chief cornerstone**. Search "*the stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.*" Write down the references you find, then answer these questions for each reference:

- What does it mean for LifeWay Church?
- What happens when Christ is not the head of it all, the centerpiece of it all, or the cornerstone of his Church?
- What is my role in this?

4 Walls to the Church

We have studied four Greek terms this year: Basaleia, Koinonia, Ekklesia, and Martus.



1: The Basaleia (Kingdom) Wall

- Write out your best description of what the Kingdom of God is, and why that is our message.

Acts 1:1-4. After the resurrection and before his ascension, Jesus taught the disciples one final time about the Kingdom of God. Why would this be his main theme just before his departure?

- Why would the disciples ask the question, "Is this the time for you to free Israel?" (Acts 1:6) Are you and I like the disciples in this matter? How?

Acts 1:7-8. Why would Jesus answer their question with the Great Commission?

- Name some kingdoms of this world (a history lesson). What do they all have in common?

Matthew 6:9-13—the Lord's Prayer. What did Jesus mean when he told us to pray, "thy Kingdom come, thy will be done"?

- What is the domain of God's Kingdom? How far does it and can it reach? How long will it last?

In Acts 2, on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit did indeed come upon the believers, and they were witnesses for Christ. What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit? For any help in this, review the sermon notes from September 26.

- He controls my accomplishments.
- He controls my calendar.
- He controls my appointments and makes them *divine* appointments.

Acts 2:36-39

- What does it mean to be a citizen of the Kingdom of God, and what does it take to find membership in this Kingdom?

In Acts 2:36-39, we see the following terms (examine the sermons from early October if you need help):

- Repent
- Be baptized

Define each of these terms and explain why they are the entrance to God's Kingdom.

- If we are people who declare God's Kingdom, then what does it look like when we speak to the world in the middle of its chaos? What hope can we bring them?
- What is the *Kingdom treasure* that we possess, and why is it so unique and valuable?

In a message in October, we stated 3 principles of action for those of us who deliver God's Kingdom treasure to the world. Think through these points and explain why these forms of delivery are so important.

- Be present.
- Be verbal.
- Be generous.

Examine this statement about the Kingdom of God Wall. Highlight what stands out to you and why this statement is so critical.

The Kingdom of God wall is built by Holy Spirit-empowered Kingdom citizens who freely share Christ's inexhaustible treasure while living boldly in His truth and humbly before the Sovereign God.



#2: The Koinonia (Fellowship) Wall

Examine Acts 2:42-47 and define some of the attributes of a powerful Koinonia (fellowship).

- What are they devoted to?
- What are they joyful in doing?
- With whom do they "break bread" and why?
- In what are they unified?
- What is important about how they met both at the Temple and in homes?

We spent much time discussing the fact that Koinonia was possible only with **vertical and horizontal relationships**.

- Describe the two major elements of the **vertical** relationship in Koinonia (see the sermons in early December for help).
- Describe some elements of a strong and healthy **horizontal** relationship in Koinonia.

We used this phrase a great deal: "**You must find a seat at the table.**" What does this mean? How do you do this principle in your life?

What is the focus and what are some attributes of a Koinonia fellowship when we are all at the Table in a healthy way?

- Have you developed a habit of reading God's Word and making it a part of your life?
 - Do you need more help?
- Have you developed the habit of prayer before the Almighty God daily?
 - Do you need more help?
- Do you have a seat at the table with others in this church body, to walk through life together?
 - Do you need help with this?



3: Ekklesia (Holy, Set Apart) Wall

The Greek word **Ekklesia** translates to the English word for **church**. We spent many weeks working through the description of an Ekklesia. Write down some aspects of Ekklesia. Why is it so crucial for the Body of Christ to live this way?

In our study of Acts 1-8,

- In what city and region was the Church located?
- Why is this significant?

Beginning in **Acts 8:26** and going all the way through **Acts 20**, what were the Church's movements geographically?

- Why is this significant?
- What is important about the Church in Jewish territory?
- What is important and theologically significant about the Church in Gentile territory?

One of those Gentile-territory churches was in the city of **Corinth**, where we get the biblical books of 1 & 2 Corinthians—letters from Paul to that church. The Corinthian believers were called to be the Ekklesia—the *set-apart* Body of Christ in a Gentile city. But this calling came with great warnings about the erosive elements that could tarnish and even ruin the church body.

The Corinthian letters are very deep and need to be part of our lifetime of study. But take a sweeping view of these letters again at see how these are instructions to the Church Body were to rid itself of erosive elements that can destroy the Church Body. Think carefully at why these instructions are here and how they apply to you personally and to our Church Body as a whole.

5 erosive elements:

1. SHALLOWNESS (1 Corinthians 1-4)

Look though these chapters and write down aspects of shallowness that you see. What shallow, childish behaviors can be corrosive and erosive for the Church? Why?

2. UNHOLY BEHAVIOR (1 Corinthians 5-14)

- What lifestyles can the Body of Christ adopt that bring great confusion to the message of Christ? There is a lengthy list, but write what you see in 1 Corinthians specifically.
- Review these chapters and write down unholy and destructive behaviors that will spell doom for Church Body, declaring it inept and useless.
- What is *idolatry* as described here? What is *sexual immorality* as described here? Why are these so often two sides of the same coin when laid out in Scripture (in both Old and New Testament—but see Acts 15:29-29 as one of the many biblical references)?
- What does a holy relationship with God look like? A holy relationship with others?
- Look carefully at **1 Corinthians 5:9-11**. How do we relate to the world? How do we relate to one another in the Body of Christ?
- Look carefully at **2 Corinthians 7:1**. What does the verse say about a holy life?

3. HERESY (1 Corinthians 10 & 15)—teaching a gospel other than the resurrection of Christ

- Idolatry is the centerpiece of all heresy (1 Corinthians 10:6-7). How is this so? Why is idolatry so deadly to the church?
- 1 Corinthians 15) is a premier chapter in the whole Bible, as it lays out the gospel story. Take some time to examine this chapter again, and write the critical elements of the gospel story.
- When you share the gospel with others, what are some key words or phrases that you would use? Write them here (in your own words). For additional help, look at the Easter Sunday sermon notes.
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4. **PERSECUTION** (2 Corinthians 4 & 5) — pressed on every side yet not crushed!
 - What kinds of persecution do you face that can leave you discouraged and ready to quit?
 - Take the time to review 2 Corinthians 3 & 4. In spite of the trials, what keeps us from knocked out? (take the necessary time to write out your thoughts in this important passage).
5. **APATHY:** the deadly act of taking NO ACTION at all – going through the motions - living with no urgency
 - **2 Corinthians 3:1** — When the Church is “all about me,” how long will I stay committed to the work of the whole Church?
 - When the Church is “all about me,” what message am I sending to the world about who Jesus is?
 - **Revelation 3:5** — What warning does God have for this kind of apathetic church?



#4: The Martus (Commission) Wall

- The Greek word **Martus** is the root of what English word? Why is this significant?
- **1 Corinthians 4:7** — How are we described in this verse?
 - Why is it important to know that we are “jars of clay”? How can that be a valuable tool for God’s Church?
- What is real biblical reconciliation and why must we have it? (2 Corinthians 5:16-21)
- What is mankind really at war with? How can we find real peace? (see the April 3 message for any help)
- What does it mean to be an ambassador for Christ? (2 Corinthians 5:20)
- Why is there such urgency in the message of reconciliation to the world? (2 Corinthians 6:1-2)
- In Acts 20:22-24 & Acts 23:1, where was Paul commissioned to go?
- We used the term, “Rome or bust!” in a Sunday sermon. (Acts 20-28)
 - What is the significance of his going to Rome?
 - How many difficulties did he face in getting to Rome? (Acts 23-27)
- Your Rome:
 - Where is “your Rome”?
 - Why is going to “your Rome” so much a part of the Martus life?
- **Acts 28:30-32** — When Paul arrived in Rome, he was under guard. What did he do during his time in Rome?

As we have finish this series, we’ve used two phrases of importance to having a healthy, well-rounded Body of Christ, properly measured to keep the Church *square, level and plumb*:

- **Getting equipped as God’s people**
What do you see now that you personally need in order to be better equipped as a member of the Body of Christ in this broken world? (see Ephesians 4:11-13)
- **Appointing watchmen on the wall**
How valuable is it to have “watchmen” on the wall to oversee the Body of Christ? What is their role? Why is it critical? Who are these watchmen at LifeWay? (see **Acts 20:28-31** & **Ephesians 3:11-13**)

Signed: _____ Date: _____