

Games People Play

## **How Does One Build A Life**

Jenga

Start - two jenga games - teams of 3 people - who can build the tallest tower in two minutes.

If you've ever played the game you know it's about building. How can we build our tower higher and higher without having it come crashing down.

We are starting what I consider to be kind of a fun series. I call it the games people play.

There are some very typical games that we have all played and have had fun playing.

Risk, aggravation, pit, monopoly

If you think about it, some of the games we play have some spiritual connotations.

So in the next few weeks we are going to look at exactly that.

Today's Title is not How do I build a Jenga tower,

but **How does One Build A Life.**

Turn in Bible to 1 Corinthians chapter 3

read vs 1 - 13

two things that note

#1 - vs 9 you are God's building

#2 - vs 10 be careful how you build

What we are talking about this morning is serious business. Jenga is a game. Building a life is not.

Paul says be careful how you build.

So how do we begin?

## **START WITH THE RIGHT FOUNDATION**

It's the same in Jenga, it's the same in life -it's the same with the Trump Tower or the Chrysler Building or the Sears Tower.

Every Good building must have a good foundation.  
(This is not a good building)picuture

And Paul says there is only one foundation that can be laid upon which to build a life for God - and that is Jesus Christ. He is the ONLY foundation to build on.

That's where you start. If you are going to be God's Building you have to build on the correct foundation.

I don't have to tell you that there are problems happening in lives all around us. Pick up the Sunday paper and you see marriages falling apart, lives falling apart. Trials, Prison sentences, domestic violence.

Even in the church we see people falling apart. They are like a Jenga tower toppling over. What has happened? Jesus has ceased to be the foundation. I know people who have walked with the Lord and are no longer serving Him. Their lives are a mess - what happened they quit building on Jesus. They decided He was not necessary as the foundation.

What are you building your life on today?>

Is it money? Is it fame? Is it sex? Is it business? Studies? Power? Music? Ministry? Family? Your good looks? Your past successes?  
If you build your life on anything other than Jesus Christ - you are in danger of collapse.

( illustration - Bowersox Home - foundation collapsing - house looked great on the outside )

That's like us. Many of us look great on the outside. WE look like we have it all together. We look successful. We look polished. We drive a nice car - we have nice digs. We look good in our job and our family looks all put together - that's what happens. We look at the outside and then when the marriage falls apart or the bank forecloses - we stand there with our jaw dropping saying - wow , what happened it looked like they had it all together.

The problem is the foundation was something other than Jesus Christ.

Starting with Jesus as foundation is a choice. We must choose Christ and we must choose to make Him the foundation - the whole foundation.

Too many times we wasn't Jesus to be relegated to the corner or a specific spot. Jesus, you can be Lord over my church time, but you can't be Lord over my money. Jesus you can be Lord over my money but you can't be Lord over my marriage. Jesus you can be

Lord over my family but don't meddle in my business.

As John Maxwell says it - Jesus is not Lord at all until He is Lord of all. And that's really what making Jesus the foundation is all about . Jesus is Lord of all.

Ok - so we start with a good foundation.

### **BE CAREFUL HOW YOU BUILD**

Jenga is a game of carefulness. You can't be a reckless Jenga player and expect to get the Linder Chocolate balls. It takes some discernment and some strategy and patience.

Paul says - we need to be careful how we build.

Notice he says there are some different ways we accomplish building life. We can use materials that can stand up to the test or we can use materials that won't last.

So we need to be careful how we build.

(Jim Baker of PTL fame built a resort called Heritage USA. It was a great concept. Eileen and I had the chance to stay in the Grand Hotel and one of the time shares. The grounds were a real sanctuary. The prayer rooms were a great place to be really alone with God. But the founders of the ministry were not careful with how they built. It became more about Money than it did about godly character. Then in the 1980 after millions of dollars in bonuses to himself and a secret affair with Jessica Hahn - the PTL empire came crashing down.

To build a life for God we need to use the building material that God give us. In other words we need to build our lives according to the principles of His Word.

Paul eludes to the fact that Gold, silver, precious stones are good materials to build on. These can withstand the DAY. The Day when God will judge.

Gold , silver, precious stones - they are good materials.

It is worth noting that the Bible talks about the Word of God as being like Gold and silver.

Psalm 19:7 ¶ The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

8 The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

9 The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring for ever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous.

10 They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.

11 By them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Ps 119:127 ¶ Because I love your commands more than gold, more than pure gold,

Ps 119:128 and because I consider all your precepts right, I hate every wrong path.

**2Ti 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,**

(Set of Summit Plans )

The Summit looks like it does today because they looked at the plans. That building became what it is because the plans were followed. What the plans are dictated the building. But it could have been different. It could have looked more like a barn or more like a house or more like a HOTEL. It could have had a 12.2 roof or a balcony or a basement. Imagine what would have happened if part way through the process they decided they didn't need the plans anymore and just said they would build however it suited them. What if they were driving along one day and saw a pretty building. That building looked successful., That building looked sharp. Let's make it like that building. But that's not what the plans say and the plans say this is the building that will be exactly what is needed. - And it is.

So what does my building need to be like? It must be like Christ. My goal is to build a life that resemble Christ. To become like Him. Where do I get the plans for that building?  
- THE BIBLE.

Where do you find the recipes for true holiness and true character? Not on Television. Not in the newspapers. Not in the college textbooks.

You find them in places like..

2 Peter 1:5 ¶ For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;

6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness;

7 and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Col 3:3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

5 ¶ Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality,

impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.

7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.

8 ¶ But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander and filthy language from your lips.

9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices

10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

You cannot build your life if you don't have the plan and you cannot get the real plan from your Creator - the designer/builder except from His own Words to Us - the Bible

### **BE HOLEY (Holy)**

Jenga - when played is holey - there are holes in the tower.

Well I am not suggesting that we have holes in our lives, instead we need to be holy.

2 Timothy 1:8 -9 So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,

The church of God is a holiness church by tradition. We believe that people are capable, through the spirit of God, to live lives above sin and lives that are fully surrendered to the Lord.

WE believe that God actually calls us to that higher level of living and He empowers us to accomplish it.

We are supposed to be different. Doesn't it stand to reason that if the Spirit of God and the power of God lives in us , then our buildings, our lives should be different from the world?

### **Colossians chapter 3**

Do you see what the writer is saying. Something is supposed to be different about Christians.

Now be careful with that - we are to be different, not weird.

Some Christians are just weird. They turn off the very people they are supposed to be reaching.

That's not what we are supposed to be. Jesus said we are to be salt and light. Salt makes people want to come and get a refreshing drink. Some Christians are not salt, they are just weird. They drive people away. There is a belief in some circles that says it's only Godly if it's weird in fact the more weird, then probably there is more of the spirit of God.

Jesus was not weird. He was godly - He was holy -he went against the norms of society and the norms of the religious leaders.

1Pe 1:16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

The Word Holy means pure, chaste - to be set apart for God.

How much do we think about that? How much do we think about being clean and pure and righteous?

How often do we give any thought to doing what God thinks is right?

(BARNA REASEARCH?)

barely one-third of Americans (35%) contend that God expects you to become holy. A larger share of the born again public believes God has called them to holiness (46%) but that portion remains a minority of the born again population.

It is true that by God's Grace we are made Holy  
Colossians 1:22 says He has reconciled me through Christ's own physical body...to present me holy in his sight.

Hebrews 10:10 says we have been made holy.

Hebrews 10:14 says He has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

Hebrews 13:12 says he made me holy through His blood.

But it is also true that God has called us to personal holiness

Ro 12:1 ¶ Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

**Heb 12:14 Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no-one will see the Lord.**

## **WALK IN HUMILITY**

When you play the game of Jenga - you play according to your own wishes and desires.

I want to move that piece because I want to move that piece. It's my decision based on my own information and my actions are decided by me.

When we think we know - that's when we get into trouble.

Do you know what we call it when we think we have all the answers? It's called pride.

Pride will never build a life. Pride always destroys a life.

What is pride?

The dictionary says it is an intense gratification based upon ones own accomplishments

and achievements. unreasonable and inordinate self-esteem.

Not all pride is necessarily bad. You can be proud of your children and proud of you mate. I am proud of this church and proud of the way you serve and give so sacrificially.

Pride becomes bad when we become unteachable. It becomes a problem when we get full of ourselves and will not let anyone else speak into our lives.

Here's what the Bible says about it.

Pr 11:2 ¶ When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

Pr 16:18 ¶ Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

When does the Jenga tower come crashing down - when by your own decision you move a piece that you are confident you can move.

The story is told of two ducks and a frog who lived happily together in a farm pond. The best of friends, the three would amuse themselves and play together in their waterhole. When the hot summer days came, however, the pond began to dry up, and soon it was evident they would have to move. This was no problem for the ducks, who could easily fly to another pond. But the frog was stuck. So it was decided that they would put a stick in the bill of each duck that the frog could hang onto with his mouth as they flew to another pond. The plan worked well--so well, in fact, that as they were flying along a farmer looked up in admiration and mused, "Well, isn't that a clever idea! I wonder who thought of it?" The frog said, "I did..."

If you want to build a life for God - one the key ingredients is not pride but humility.

One of the greatest historical figures of all times is Moses. He was a man whose life was given to God. His whole existence was wrapped up in serving God. He made mistakes, but He was truly a building that edified God and was useful for God's purposes.

Nu 12:3 (Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)

Humility many times finds its life in repentance.

ON the day of Pentecost, Peter was preaching to thousands of people who were already very religious., They were in town to celebrate a religious feast. They were doing their religious duty. They were making good on their vows and promises.

But after Peter talks to them about Jesus, they are cut to the quick and they say what must we do to be saved.

What was Peter's response?

Repent...

For some of us, the quickest way we can get back on track to building a life for God is to Repent. WE need to humbly come before God - confess our sins of pride and selfishness - admit that our plan is exactly that - it's our plan and we want God's plan -and we need to repent - that means to change direction 180 degrees and humbly follow God's plan.

1Pe 5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

So what are we going to do? Are we going to work at building a life for God or are we going to be content to build for ourselves. Are we going to follow the patterns of the World, or are we going to follow the plans of the Master Designer.

Every day we have a choice about how we are going to build this building. Every day we get to decide what kind of foundation we are going to lay. What kind of building material we are going to use. We have a choice to build a building that is on display for our own edification or a building that is the replica of our savior Jesus Christ.

Pray.

Response Card