

Theme: As the people of God, we are to be a biblically based, Christ centered, caring community.

I. Intro – The Church As A Building

- A. Many metaphors for the church in Word
- B. Body of Christ, Bride of Christ, Temple
- C. Peter and Paul both use metaphor of a building
- D. What are the main components of this building?
- E. What principal parts form this building?

II. A Biblically Based Community

- A. Notice how many Scriptures in this passage
 - 1. vs 6 - Isaiah 28:16
 - 2. vs 7 – Psalm 118:22
 - 3. vs 8 – Isaiah 8:14
 - 4. vs 9 – Exodus 19:5; Isaiah 43:21
 - 5. vs 10 – Hosea 1:9-10; 2:23
- B. The Bible is the basis for our building
 - 1. The Bible is the Word of God
 - 2. The Bible accurately defines God, Christ, us
 - 3. The Bible tells us how to know God
 - 4. Defines church, and how it lives & ministers
- C. The offense of Scripture – false ideas on Word

- 1. Bible is just a book – not God’s Word
- 2. Scripture is one of many sources of info
- 3. To our shame, true even within the Church!!!
- 4. Many do not carefully study and teach Word
- 5. Power is in God’s Word - not style, gimmicks

III. A Christ Centered Building

- A. Notice the central focus on Christ in this passage
 - 1. Many titles/roles for Christ
 - a. Living Stone, Chosen and Precious to God
 - b. High Priest, cornerstone, capstone
 - 2. Christ is the Stone that determines destiny
 - a. Those who reject Christ are rejected (7-8)
 - b. Those who embrace are embraced (9-10)
- B. Christ is the central focus of all Scripture
 - 1. Luke 24:25-27; 24:44-47; John 5:39-40
 - 2. Biblically based requires Christ centered!
- C. We must preach, sing Christ - and Him crucified
 - 1. This is our message and our hope
 - 2. The Good News of Christ is the power of God
- D. The offense of Christ
 - 1. Christ the stumbling stone rejected by men (7-8)

2. Pluralism - many ways - Christ alone!
3. Pragmatism - other things - Christ!

IV. A Caring Community

A. Notice the focus on community in this passage

1. Built together into a house (v5)
2. Chosen people, people of God (9-10)
3. Whole context is communal - not individual

B. Christian life is communal – not individual

1. Metaphors: the goal is community
 - a. Body
 - b. Building
 - c. Family

2. The picture in Acts 2 & 4

C. The offense of community

1. American individualism militates against community
2. Community requires sacrifice - time, desires, commitment
3. Community - work through offenses
4. Community costs – but is worth it

V. Applying the Word

A. Do we see the church MUST be BB, CC, CC?

1. The church built on Scripture - not cool ideas, music, skills, etc.

2. Church not competing with Hollywood, music row
3. The church must proclaim Christ crucified - not principles of success
4. Church not competing with financial seminars, Oprah
5. The church must be a community - not building or meeting
6. We must leave time for and pursue relationships

B. Am I BB, CC, and part of CC?

1. Am I building my life on Scripture?
2. Do I read on own? Do I hunger for teaching of Word?
3. Am I part of the community?
4. Do I build relationships outside of the meetings?
5. Am I centered on Christ?
6. Do I regularly meditate on Christ's atoning work?

C. Communion - meditating on Christ's atoning work

A Biblically Based, Christ Centered, Caring Community

1 Peter 2:4-10
 March 29, 2009
 Communion
 Numbers 6

25 He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" 27 **And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.** Luke 24:25-27

44 He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: **Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.**" 45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. 46 He told them, "**This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.**" Luke 24:44-47

39 You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. **These are the Scriptures that testify about me,** 40 yet you refuse to come to me to have life. John 5:39-40