

Theme: We are called to build upon the foundation laid by the apostles so that we can help the Church grow for the glory of God.

## I. Intro – Gunny Minneo - Mixed Metaphors

- A. “Thats the way the cookie cracks”
- B. “Thats the way the nut crumbles”
- C. We have talked about building and planting the church
- D. Paul uses both metaphors here as well
- E. Both metaphors help us understand our call

## II. The Church - God’s Field, God’s Building

- A. “You are God’s field, building” (v9) - mixing metaphors
- B. The Church as God’s field
  - 1. Paul had been using agricultural metaphor (vv6-8)
  - 2. He and Apollos have worked under God (vv6-7, 9)
  - 3. But God owns the field (v9)
- C. The Church as God’s building
  - 1. Paul now shifts to a building metaphor (v9-10)
  - 2. Again Paul and others build (vv9-10)
  - 3. But God owns the building (vv9, 16-17)
- D. This means that the Church belongs to God - not us!
  - 1. We must always be conscious of our responsibility to God
  - 2. It is His building, so He decides what we build

- 3. It is His building so He decides how we build

## III. Believers - Co-laborers Under God

- A. Paul and Apollos - co-workers under God (v9)
  - 1. Probably not co-workers with God (like KJV)
  - 2. NIV 2011 - note 3 possessive genitives in 3:9
  - 3. Co-workers - both working for God (1 Cor 3:5)
- B. God is the one who determines growth (1 Cor 3:6)
  - 1. We work, God causes growth (1 Cor 3:6)
  - 2. We must never think that our labor can do this
  - 3. We can grow organizations - only God can grow the Church
- C. Still, believers must labor to build the church
  - 1. Paul laid the apostolic foundation of Christ (vv10-11)
  - 2. Paul was a wise master builder (v10 literal)
  - 3. The Church’s only foundation is Jesus!
  - 4. Jesus - God-Man, crucified, risen, exalted!
  - 5. Others now build on that foundation (v10, 12)
  - 6. God’s ownership is no excuse for our laziness!
- D. Varying qualities of workmanship
  - 1. Our work can be of varying quality (vv12-13)
  - 2. Two types of materials - lasting vs temporal

3. Our work tested by fire on Judgment Day (vv13-15)
4. Not about salvation, purgatory - Christ has saved us
5. It is about whether our work survives or perishes
6. Not about size, fame, programs - these can all fade
7. Will what we build together survive - now & judgment?

#### IV. The Church - God's Temple

##### A. The Church is not just any building - it is God's Temple

1. The Church is the Temple (vv16-17)
2. The Church is the fulfillment of OT Temple

##### B. The Church is where God dwells

1. God's Spirit dwells in the Church (v16)
2. The Church is now God's home, people, Temple
3. The Church is God's instrument to reveal Himself in this age
4. He is wed to the Church - and will not divorce her!

##### C. This is why we build the Church **for** the glory of God

1. We build for God's Name and fame - not ours
2. We build for God's glory to dwell in the Church
3. This must always be kept in mind
4. It is God's plant, building - not ours!

#### V. Applying the Word

##### A. Do we see we are called to build the Church together?

1. Paul's words have special application to church leaders
2. We will be judged by how we build on the apostolic foundation of Jesus Christ
3. But leaders are to train all for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11-12)
4. Leaders have critical role - but all involved
5. Am I helping build the Church for God's glory?
6. Am I using my gifts to build the Church?

##### B. How is God calling you to be involved in BRCC vision for 2011?

1. Some of us will be called to be part of the new plant
2. Some will help the plant get ready - but will stay
3. Some will need to fill roles vacated by people going with the plant
4. How is God calling YOU to be part of this vision?

##### C. Communion - Food for Our Labor

#### Building the Church for the Glory of God

1 Corinthians 3:9-17  
 Psalm 84:5-12  
 January 30, 2011  
 Prayer  
 Deuteronomy 1:11

9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.

10 By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, 13 his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. 14 If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. 15 If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? 17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.

1 Corinthians 3:9-17

11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up.

Ephesians 4:11-12