

## Summary

God has called each of us to be spiritual builders, constructing people rather than physical structures. We are both God's buildings and called to build others up through our words and actions. Paul outlines five essential marks of wise spiritual building: having the right plans through our spiritual gifts, building on the foundation of Jesus Christ, using quality materials of truth and grace in our speech, expecting God's inspection of our work, and receiving rewards for faithful building. The people we invest in and build up spiritually become our crown and reward. Every interaction is an opportunity to either build someone up or tear them down, making it crucial that we intentionally use our gifts to encourage and strengthen others for God's glory.

## Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with open hearts and minds, ready to receive what You want to teach us through Your Word. As we gather together to discuss how You've called us to be builders in Your kingdom, we ask that You would help us set aside our own agendas and preconceptions. Open our eyes to see the people around us as You see them – as precious buildings to be constructed with love, truth, and grace. Give us wisdom to understand our unique giftings and the courage to use them for Your glory. Help us to be honest about areas where we may have been tearing down rather than building up. We pray that our time together would draw us closer to You and to one another. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Ice Breaker

What's the most ambitious building or DIY project you've ever attempted, and how did it turn out?

## Key Verses

\*1 Corinthians 3:9–18

Psalms 127:1

Matthew 7:24–27

Ephesians 4:15

1 Peter 2:1

1 Thessalonians 2:19–20

## Questions

- Paul says we are 'God's workers' and 'God's building.' What does it mean to you personally that God sees you as both a builder and a building under construction?
- The pastor mentioned that some people focus on building 'kingdom cul-de-sacs' while others haven't built anything spiritually. How would you honestly describe your current 'spiritual subdivision'?
- Paul emphasizes that Jesus is the only foundation we can build on. Why do you think people are tempted to build their lives on other

foundations, and what are some common false foundations you see in today's culture?

– The sermon discusses using materials of 'gold, silver, jewels' versus 'wood, hay, straw' when building into people's lives. Can you give examples of what these different materials might look like in practical, everyday interactions?

– The pastor talked about speaking 'truth and grace' as our primary building materials. Share about a time when someone spoke truth and grace into your life. How did it impact you?

– Paul warns about building work that will be 'burned up' at judgment. What kinds of activities or attitudes in our relationships with others might fall into this category?

– The reward for faithful building is described as 'the people' themselves. How does this change your perspective on investing in difficult relationships or people who might not seem to appreciate your efforts?

– What spiritual gifts do you believe God has given you for building up others, and how are you currently using (or not using) those gifts in your daily life?

#### Life Application

This week, identify one person in your life who you can 'built up.' Commit to speaking words of truth and grace to them at least once each day. This could be through encouragement, prayer, practical help, or simply choosing not to participate in negative conversations about them. At the end of the week, reflect on how this intentional building affected both you and them.

#### Key Takeaways

We are called to be wise builders who construct people up rather than tear them down, using our God-given gifts as our building plans  
Jesus Christ is the only foundation that will last – no other foundation (good works, religion, wealth, etc.) can support eternal building

Our words are our primary building materials, and we must choose to speak truth and grace rather than engaging in deceit, hypocrisy, or unkind speech

Our building work will be inspected and judged for its eternal value, not its volume – quality relationships matter more than quantity

The ultimate reward for faithful building is the people themselves – those we've invested in become our 'crown of rejoicing' in eternity

#### Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for being our solid foundation and for calling us to be builders in Your kingdom. We confess that too often we've used our words to tear down rather than build up, and we've focused on temporary things rather than eternal investments. Help us to see every person we encounter as a precious building that You want us to help construct with love, truth, and grace. Give us wisdom to use our gifts

faithfully, courage to speak truth when it's difficult, and hearts full of grace when others fail us. May our lives create beautiful 'spiritual subdivisions' that bring glory to Your name and draw others to You. Transform us from people who destroy to people who build, and let our work have eternal value that will survive the fire of Your judgment. We want to hear 'well done' and to present the people we've loved as our crown before Your throne. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.