



Empowering People to Change the World

The Church's One Foundation, Jesus Christ

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Merger Sunday of Chapel Hills Church and The Road

- Who would have dreamed up the idea that a group of displaced Jesus disciples would be in a time of 40 days of prayer and need a place to meet and choose this building?
- Who would have dreamed 3 years ago that Bobby Sanders and Steve Holt would have met each other, become friends, done ministry together and been able to know each other's families?
- Who would have dreamed that the elders of The Road would have become friends with the elders of Chapel Hills Church?
- Finally, who would have dreamed that two churches who love Jesus and have a similar mission would merge together as one church?
- Only Jesus could have thought this up and dreamed this into being.

1 Corinthians 2:9

- ***“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”***
- On this inaugural Sunday, I want to talk about Who we are building upon, this church, The Road @ Chapel Hills.

In a similar situation, Paul, who had planted the church at Corinth, and then seen it built by Apollos, had to address the issue of Who that church was built upon. Who was the real foundation? It was not Paul. It was not Cephas. It was not Apollos.

1 Corinthians 3:1-4

¹And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. ²I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; ³for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? ⁴For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal?

- Divisions were created because people were over-identifying with different leaders at different periods of history in the life of the Corinthian church. Some had been saved and disciplined with Paul, others with Cephas and others with Apollos.
- The result of such over-identification was strife and division.
- Paul is saying that they were “carnal” which means fleshly. I might say they were normal, acting like mere men.
 - He wanted to feed them on solid, weighty, meaty food but they could not handle it.
 - They were still acting like babies.
 - It was a kind of Church Cult or Personality Cult of sorts.
 - We see this all the time in churches. This is why mergers often do not work. People are more wedded to the past than have vision for the future!

1 Corinthians 3:5

⁵Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one?

- Paul makes it clear that he and Apollos are only being faithful to what they were called to do and nothing more.

- It is one thing for the people to think a minister or church is better than another but it is another thing for the minister to come out and say, “Look, we are nothing special. We are just doing our job. We are being as faithful to our calling as possible, but not just me but him too.”
- Some have been called to plant churches and some grow the churches. Some are more gifted at evangelism and others at teaching and equipping saints, but both are needed.

1 Corinthians 3:6-8

⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. ⁷ So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. ⁸ Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

- God does not call the qualified but qualifies the called.
- Paul had planted the church. Apollos had followed and had probably been catalytic in discipling and teaching more deeply the things of God. We know from Acts that Apollos was a highly anointed teacher of the Word.
- But Paul wants to direct the people toward what really matters, not who planted the church or who came later, for that was simply their calling and they are servants of Christ.
- No, Paul is directing them to unity and how unity is built in an emerging church, a growing church.

- I use a phrase often: “Healthy things grow, growing things change, change is hard and hard is how you mature into a wholehearted disciple.”

So, how does Paul instruct us?

What is Paul’s admonition for Navigating a Merger of two churches?

1 Corinthians 3:9

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

- Two metaphors used side by side: We are God’s field, we are God’s building.
- One is an agricultural term and the other a construction term.
- Interesting that we are the field that we are planting in and we are the building we are constructing.
- In other words, when we work in the field, we are planting ourselves and when we are constructing the building, we are building ourselves!
- We are not a facility but a people being built up together.
- We are One! We are ONE CHURCH and we are laboring together now.
- We do not *go to* church, we *are* the church.
- We are not Chapel Hills Church. We are not The Road. We are **The Road @ Chapel Hills.**

1 Corinthians 3:10

¹⁰According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.

- Everything rises and falls on **how** we build the church. It is more about **how** we build than who does the building.
- He is saying, “take heed how you build.” This is the construction question: what kind of foundation are you building from?

1 Corinthians 3:11

¹¹ For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

- Never once does Paul mention how they baptize, how they do communion or what kind of programs they have.
- Paul’s main concern for the future growth of the Corinthian church was, what is your foundation?
- The foundation is the key.
 - **Jesus said in Matthew 7:24-25,**
²⁴***“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: ²⁵ and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.”***
 - **Matthew 16:18, Jesus said:**
On this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

1 Corinthians 3:12-13

¹² Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is.

- Tests and hardships will come! Difficulties and disagreements will come. Hard times in the last days will surface.

- The only way the church will survive is by keeping the Main Thing, the Main Thing and that is Jesus Christ

Ephesians 2:19-22

¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

- Jesus is the Cornerstone and we are building on Him.
- Jesus is the Chief Shepherd and we are His under-shepherds.
- Jesus is the Senior Pastor and we are under His leadership.

The Road @ Chapel Hills is all about discipleship:

- We are building and growing to be all in, burn the boats, fearless wholehearted disciples of Jesus.

Jesus commissioned us to build His way.

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

- How do we do that? By developing an intimate, growing, loving relationship with Jesus Christ.

The greatest man who ever lived, gave us the greatest command ever given, that we might live the greatest life ever offered.

Mark 12

28 Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?"

29 Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.

31 And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."