"Following God's Blueprint"
1 Corinthians 3:9-17

C. I. T.—Those responsible for building God's temple should carefully consider how they build.
C. I. S.—We must evaluate how we are building his church.
Purpose—To lead in refocusing on Christ.
Introduction—Details of blueprints—carefully follow the blueprints

I. Setting the context—Vs 9-10
   a. Vs. 1-9 addresses factions in the church
   b. Vs. 9 shifts from agriculture to architecture
   c. The church is God's field/God's building…
   d. According to God's plan
      i. Paul had an assignment as an Apostle—grace given to him.
      ii. He was to start the church, laying the foundation, planting the seed.
      iii. Someone else came in behind him and built on that foundation.
   e. Therefore, those who are following should be very careful how they build.
   f. The build/temple of God refers to the church collectively, but also to an individual's life.
   g. Here are the blueprints for building God's Temple.

II. ***We must build on Christ.*** Vs. 11
   a. Jesus is the foundation.
      i. Paul laid the foundation of Christ as he presented the Gospel and they accepted it.
      ii. He was founding the church on Jesus, not on himself or another minister.
   b. Everything built after that must be connected to the foundation.
   c. Illus.—Seeing just the foundation
   d. Application
      i. What you are build on matters…
         1. The strength of the foundation determines the strength of the building.
         2. The shape of the foundation determines the shape of the building
      ii. So much temptation to build on tradition, personalities, or preferences.
      iii. However, if we are building on Christ, then the shape of what we do will reflect Him.
         1. That means focusing on the things the early church focused on, learning the obey the Word of God, prayer, fellowship, worship, and bringing people to faith in Christ.
         2. If we as a church focus on personalities, programs, or sacred cows, living or not, we will not have the shape of Jesus Christ.
      iv. If we don't have the shape, then we will not have the strength.

III. ***We must build for eternity.*** Vs. 12-13
   a. Churches are built with both materials that are eternal and materials that are not
      i. Lasting are symbolized with gold, silver, and costly stones
      ii. The perishing are symbolized with wood hay and straw
      iii. While on this side of Heaven, we do not know what materials we are building with.
   b. The quality of our building will be revealed on a day of fire.
      i. Fire—the refiners fire, refers to judgment
      ii. Make obvious, disclosed, revealed, and proved/tested
   c. The things that are eternal will make it through the fire, but the things that are perishing will burn up in the judgment

d. Illus.—Wheat and the tares—they looked the same, but it wasn't until the harvest that they were shown for what they really were
e. Appl.
    i. The building blocks of the church are not metals but are people.
    ii. Neglect—
        1. You have to work in order to build something.
        2. We aren't building if we aren't winning people to Christ.
        3. We can be very busy with the programs and buildings, but not win anyone to Christ.
    iii. Watering down the gospel—we are adding people, but they aren't saved unless they respond to the gospel.
    iv. Can a church be huge on this side of eternity, but lose it all in the fire?
    v. Can a church seem small on this side of eternity, but survive the fire?
    vi. I am way more concerned with what FBC Lafayette looks like on the other side of eternity than on this side.

IV. ***We must build with accountability.*** Vs. 14-17

a. Building with quality leads to reward.
b. Building with carelessness leads to destruction.
    i. Build with things that don't last
    ii. You is plural—the church
    iii. Destroy means corrupt
        1. The church is corrupted in doctrine.
        2. The church is corrupted in holiness.
        3. The church is corrupted in focus.
    iv. God will destroy him.
c. Illus.— **2 Corinthians 5:9-10**—Bema seat
d. Application
    i. One day we will be held accountable for how we build God's church.
    ii. This accountability will not take place until everything is said and done, but it will take place.
    iii. What will be there when we get there?

Conclusion

- **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**—Refers to the individual as God's Temple
    - Here we see that these principles apply to building an individual's life.
    - There is only one foundation, Jesus.
    - You can build for eternity or for the fire.
    - You will be held accountable for how you build.
- Are you building on the right foundation?
- Are you building with gold, silver, and precious stones, or a bunch of wood, hay and stubble?
- How are you investing what God has given you?
    - Time
    - Energy/Abilities
    - Money
- Can a person seem very successful on this side of eternity, but poor on the other side?
- I can way more about what I will be on the other side of eternity than on this side.
- Be careful how you build.

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2 Corinthians 5:9 Therefore, whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to be pleasing to him.
10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may be repaid for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

1 Corinthians 6:19 Don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,
20 for you were bought at a price. So glorify God with your body.