

The 19th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, October 4, 2015

A Time to Build: Lessons From the Book of Nehemiah

The Importance of Unity

Nehemiah 3; Colossians 3:12-17

▣ Building Block #1:

▣ Building Block #2:

▣ Building Block #3:

▣ Building Block #4:

THREE IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES

Principle #1: _____ : _____.

The rebuilding of Jerusalem's walls wasn't just a civic beautification project, but a matter of _____.

“next to him, next to them, after him, and after them” =

Nehemiah reminds us:

“The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 12:12-13)

Principle #2: _____ : _____.

They weren't just building walls or restoring a city, they were _____ God and bringing _____ to His name.

“Glory of God” =

Kavod =

“You know very well what trouble we are in. Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire. Let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and end this disgrace!” (Nehemiah 2:17)

2 KINDS OF DISGRACE

• _____ disgrace.

They longed to see Jerusalem rebuilt to its former _____.

• _____ disgrace.

They longed to see God once again _____ among all people.

“Then Eliashib the high priest and the other priests started to rebuild the sheep gate. They dedicated it and set up its doors, building the wall as far as the Tower of One Hundred, which they dedicated, and the Tower of Hananel.” (Neh 3:1)

Sheep Gate =

By beginning here, Nehemiah is establishing that their relationship to God, symbolized by the close proximity to the Temple, was _____.

Nehemiah reminds us:

“So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31)

Principle #3: _____ : _____.

This unity not only allowed them to get the job done, but to stand strong in the face of _____.

Nehemiah reminds us:

In calling men and women to follow Him, Jesus never called them to a solitary life, but rather into _____.

“How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity.” (Psalm 133:1)

“Making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Ephesians 4:3-6)

“Make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.” (Philippians 2:2)

“I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you.” (John 17:21)

LIVING OUT THE PRINCIPLE OF UNITY

#1. Unity means _____.

“As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.” (Colossians 3:12)

The Clothes of Christ

• **The collar of** _____

“If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion, how can God's love be in that person?” (1 John 3:17)

• **The cuff of** _____

“A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people.” (2 Timothy 2:24)

• **The hem of** _____

“Pride is the only disease known to man that makes everyone sick except the one who has it.” (Anonymous)

“Though the Lord is great, he cares for the humble, but he keeps his distance from the proud.” (Psalm 138:6)

• **The girdle of** _____

“Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom.” (James 3:13)

• **The pants of** _____

“Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love.” (Ephesians 4:2)

How are you doing in this area?

#2. Unity means _____.

“Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” (Colossians 3:13)

“If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.” (Romans 12:18)

The 5 Rules of Forgiveness

Forgiveness is not _____

Forgiveness is not _____

Forgiveness is not _____

Forgiveness is not _____

Forgiveness does not _____

How are you doing in this area?

#3. Unity means _____.

“And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.” (Colossians 3:15)

“I am leaving you with a gift. Peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give isn't like the peace the world gives. So don't be troubled or afraid.” (John 14:27)

“Now that we have been put right with God through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 5:1)

“The mountains and hills may crumble, but my love for you will never end; I will keep forever my promise of peace. So says the Lord who loves you.” (Isaiah 54:10)

How are you doing in this area?

#4. Unity means _____.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God.” (Colossians 3:16)

“All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.” (2 Timothy 3:16)

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105).

“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!” (Psalm 118:1)

“This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me.” (Matthew 15:8)

“God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:24)

How are you doing in this area?