

Healthy Churches Follow the Blueprint

Sunday 10th April 2016

Go to work on a metaphor

"A metaphor is a figure of speech that refers to something as being the same as another thing for rhetorical effect.

It may provide clarity or identify hidden similarities between two ideas."



"He was a walking encyclopedia."

Metaphors for church

- ✓ Corporal: The Church as Body
- ✓ Architectural: The Church as Building/Temple
- ✓ Agricultural: The Church as Plant/Field/Vineyard/Vine
- ✓ Martial: The Church as Army
- ✓ Familial: The Church as Family/Bride

Ephesians 2:19-22



¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:19-22



19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a temple by the Spirit. 20 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.



Ephesians 2:19-22



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Ephesians 2:19-22



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1 Corinthians 3:6-9



⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷ So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. ⁸ He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. ⁹ For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

1 Corinthians 3:10-11,16



¹⁰ According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. ¹¹ For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

1 Peter 2:5-6



⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in Scripture:

"Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." (Quoted from Isaiah 28:16)

Key lessons - 1

1. The building is not finished yet
2. We are individually “works in progress”
3. Problems are inevitable
4. People are what it is all about

Key lessons - 2

5. There is no end in sight
6. Only faith sees the building God intends
7. The building is to be a temple filled with the presence of God

