

Blueprints for Life: Building the Wall

Series recap: continuing "blueprints for life" series. Last week - foundation = X. This week = walls.

INTRO: I love watching HI shows. Hometime – Dean and Joann; Home Again – Bob Villa. We bought an older house needed work. I love working on the house. You can see what you've done.

The thing I've noticed is that we can learn a lot about God's plan for us through building things.

PROP: As we finish building this wall, we can learn a lot about how we should love as Christians.

TRANS: So let's get started building and learning.

First - We are the board and God wants us to fit perfectly.

1. The first thing you have to do is select a board that is in good shape.

No knots, bows or checks because it makes straight, strong walls; critical - plumb, level and square.

God wants us to be good, straight. God chooses only the best.

1 Peter 2:9 – "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."

God has chosen us and He has hand-made each of us. We have talents, gifts. NO losers!

**God has carefully chosen you.

ILLUST: Michelangelo's statue of David – piece of marble that lay for 35 years in a field. He saw the image of David in it and then carved out one of the world's most famous statues.

2. The second step is to follow the plans and make sure that we cut the board to the right length.

Measure opening, mark board, cut board to length.

God has a plan for our life. Jer 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Sometimes we think we know the direction of our life – we should listen to God.

Prov 16:9 In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.

Prov 19:21 Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.

**Follow God's plan

ILLUST: I wondered what I'd be when I grew up. Early = race car driver; Later = TV production; Music minister; Youth Minister, JH min.

3. The third step is to make sure that the board is perfectly positioned - plumb and level.

Plumb the board using a level – makes wall straight & strong.

God has a plan that He has given us in the Bible. If we follow it – we'll fit the structure perfectly.

Amos 7:7-8 This is what he showed me: The Lord was standing by a wall that had been built true to plumb, with a plumb line in his hand. And the LORD asked me, "What do you see, Amos?" "A plumb line," I replied. Then the Lord said, "Look, I am setting a plumb line among my people Israel; I will spare them no longer. God is righteous, light, etc..."

****Pattern your life after God.**

ILLUST: UPS flight simulator. Look at artificial horizon. Felt wrong. It was actually right.

4. The third step is to attach the board to the rest of the structure.

Toe-nail board into footer and header

1 Cor 12:12-20 – all parts of one body.

****Stay strong – stick together.**

ILLUST: Friends from Lou who came to St. Louis to my Dad's funeral. Helped me get through it.

ILLUST: Giant Sequoias in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of central California. Grow over 200 feet tall. Tallest = 275 feet tall! Shallow roots. Wouldn't stand unless roots from surrounding trees anchored together and helped survive high winds.

CONCL:

Many times we don't feel as though we are good enough, fit in, or can measure up. If we follow God and allow Him to make us into what He sees – we'll turn out Great!