

“We are God's building.”

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1 Corinthians 3.9-23; Matthew
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A person visited a construction site and asked the workers what they were doing. One worker told him that he was building a wall, the other told him that he was building a room and the third told him that he was building a new house. It makes a big difference, while we are building, to know where our imagination is focused. A wall, a room or a house. The attitude of our mind and our heart make the difference.

Paul challenges the Church in Corinth using a metaphor: “You are the building of God.” After spending 18 months in Corinth, Paul returns to discover that this community of faith has strayed from its original foundation and the teachings Paul put there. The community was overwhelmed by divisions and wrong practices.

Paul emphasizes the need to continue building on the foundation of Jesus Christ, from the foundation, through the current construction, to the final inspection; and each person has to be careful how to build on that foundation. It is clear that the Corinthians are a community of believers, but a distracted community. That's why Paul gives them instructions on how to build.

If we understood the image Paul is sharing here, we must think about how houses were built “the old way.” In ancient times, constructing a building required a lot of time and energy and a large number of people. Usually, a quarry was opened near the construction site. The stones were carried through a chain of people from the quarry to the construction site. The stones were passed from one person to another until they reached the construction site. If someone in the chain of people dropped the stone or did not do their part, the construction task was affected.

The image of passing the stones teaches us that to be the building of God and the builders is to learn to build in full partnership with the community of faith. To build God's church, each and every one is asked to participate in the construction and share their stone so that the building is complete and beautiful. And that is what it is about when talking about communion, it is the

work in unity, focusing our eyes and imagination on becoming God's construction. In this image we must notice two things:

Our stones do not necessarily look alike, but rather, with our diversity, we come together to humbly present our stones trusting that in the end, with the collaboration of all our gifts, our work will be beautiful. If the celebration of dates such as Pentecost, World Communion Day and even the Reformation taught us something valuable; It is the value and beauty of diversity. How to learn to respect each other, even when we don't think exactly the same. Our diversity is the beauty of our identity.

Another aspect that we need to learn from the construction process is that the final plan of the building is in the hands of God. No church has the final plan. No one person has the final blueprint; nor Paul or Apollo or you or me. This is why we build in faith, We build confessing that we know little, but our God, in his grace, shows us what the final image of the church will be like. This invites us to humility and patience. That is why we strive to continue reforming ourselves, getting closer day by day to the image of God that God wants us to be,

It is worth noting that Paul urges us to be careful how we build on the foundation. He emphasizes that there is no success in building the church of Christ apart from the doctrine of the gospel: which is love and all its implications.

Today we are together, with all our particularities and differences, and yet willing to commit ourselves to being colleagues in the construction of the church of Christ, and there is no success in the construction of a church of Christ if We do not join hands and efforts of all of us to be able to build in the right way.

Today I invite you to commit to building the church and to build it together. Examine the way we build together. It's not so much what we're building, but how we're building it. We can only be God's church today if we work together in a Christian way, discovering that we are building on the right foundation.

Paul's challenge is to use the correct way of building.

Another challenge Paul presents is whether we are using the correct values. Paul challenges us to be careful that our work can withstand the fire. We, only we, are responsible for what we are building, we are responsible for our church being able to withstand any eventuality that the times bring. How can we do that? Making a difference. Listen, notice, feel, pay attention to the suffering in the world and do what is necessary to alleviate it.

Unless we put our precious construction at the service of others, our church will not withstand the fire.

Today we are before our God to assume our responsibility. We are called to use our imagination to make a difference in the world, seeking a better world, addressing the needs of the most vulnerable. We are called and called to lift all our wonderful heritage to say ***“our heritage is for the people and for all people. To stand up and claim the importance of looking inside being human and telling each person that they are valuable in the eyes of God, no matter what their color or gender or race or passport. And that you have the right not only to eat and live, but even to play a new tune for the world. “Right to believe that the future is as valuable as the past and that together we will live in the present and make a difference.”***

God has not only given us the task of transforming the world, he has also filled us with his grace so that with the gifts we are able to carry out this task. Around the Lord's table, and remembering the sacrifice of love for us. We are also called to die with our Lord, to empty ourselves so that we can be filled again with the power of the resurrection, to pay the necessary price that the work of construction entails.

Luther said from his pulpit: A religion that gives nothing, costs nothing and suffers nothing, is worth nothing.

This act of gathering as a church, before your table in a sacramental act of sacrifice, and as a sign of unity we pray: Living God, renew us and transform us. Come Holy Spirit, renew our imagination.