

Theological Equipping Class – How to Build up the Church **“Delight. Display. Declare: The Mission of The Parkway Church”**

The Parkway Church exists to Glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ who: Delight in Him, Display His Love to one another, and Declare Him to the World

The Building

Ephesians 4:11-16 – *“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ... ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”*

The Bricks

- “Bricks” of the “One Anothers”
- “Bricks” of Specific Gifts and Resources
- “Bricks” of the Gospel

How do we Build?

Building Posture:

- Love:
 - John 13:34-35 – *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*
 - 1 Thessalonians 3:12 - *“May your love increase and overflow for each other”*
 - Romans 12:10 - *“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love”*
 - Hebrews 13:1 – *“Keep on loving each other as brothers”*
- Humility:
 - Philippians 2:1-8 - *“So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among*

yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

- Romans 15:1-2 - *“Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. ³ For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.”*
- Galatians 5:13 - *“serve one another in love”*
- 1 Corinthians 12:25 - *“so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other”*
- Forgive and Forbear:
 - Ephesians 4:32 - *“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you”*
 - Colossians 3:13 - *“Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you”*
 - Romans 3:25-26 - *“This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”*
 - Ephesians 4:2- *“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love”*

Building with Words:

- Prayer:
 - Pray for the church as a whole
 - Pray for specific people in the church
 - Pray for church leadership
- Encourage:
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:11 - *“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”*
 - Hebrews 3:13 - *“But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness”*
 - Romans 12:10: *“Honor one another”*
 - Hebrews 10:24–25 - *“Consider how to stir one another up and encourage one another.”*
 - Encouragement is both fuel for building and a balm for pain

- “Consider what a wonderfully countercultural place our local churches would be if we all strategically planned to use words for what will be celebrated on the last day. God’s Christ-exalting, universe-transforming, destiny-shifting plans in Christ include deploying our words for eternal ends.” - Josh Manley, pastor
- Kill Gossip and Slander:
 - Ephesians 4:29 - *“Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.”*
 - James 5:9 - *“Don’t grumble against each other”*
 - Galatians 5:25 – *“Don’t provoke or envy one another”*
 - James 4:11 - *“Do not slander one another”*
 - Galatians 5:26 – *“Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.”*
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:13 - *“Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other”*
- Rebuke:
 - 2 Timothy 4:2 – *“preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching”*
 - Ephesians 4:3 - *“make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace”*
- Edify/Exhort:
 - Hebrews 10:24 - *“spur one another on toward love and good deeds”*
 - Colossians 3:16 - *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.”*
 - Ephesians 5:19 - *“Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs”*
 - Romans 15:14 - *“Instruct one another”*
- The Sunday Gathering

Building with your Gifts and Resources:

- Galatians 6:10 - *“As we have opportunity, let us do good”*
- 2 Corinthians 9:7 – *“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*
- 1 Corinthians 14:12 – *“So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.”*
- Gifts: Each of you are uniquely gifted by the Spirit for the building up of Parkway
- Resources: Each of you have been given, by God, resources for the building up of Parkway

Building with your Life:

- Hospitality:
 - 1 Peter 4:9 - “Offer hospitality to one another”
 - Romans 12:13 – “Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.”
 - “Biblical hospitality means far more than cake and coffee after the evening service. Showing hospitality calls for an open home, an open schedule, an open ear, and even an open wallet. Here’s my working definition of hospitality: *a Christ-driven, selfless willingness to sacrifice our goods for the good of others* (Rom. 12:13).” - Doug Van Meter, Pastor
- Discipleship:
 - “Discipleship simply means deliberately helping one another to grow in conformity to Jesus. Discipling is *deliberate* because it seeks to help *specific* individuals grow in *specific* ways toward godliness. Discipling is *mutual* because it’s not a one-way street with a sage on one corner and a student on the other.” - Tony Shepherd, Pastor
- Bearing Burdens:
 - Galatians 6:2 “*Bear one another’s burdens.*”
 - 1 Corinthians 12:26 - “*if one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together*”
 - Hebrews 13:3 - *Remember those in prison as though in prison with them*
- Outreach:
 - Ambassador for Christ: How you conduct yourself in the world builds up the reputation of the church
 - Evangelism

Building with the Goal in Mind