

Resonate

BIBLE STUDY

**“BUILDING BLOCKS:
EVERYONE’S BABBLING”**

Unity can be both positive and negative. The difference is determined by what people are unified around. The common cause can lead to positive reforms or terrible consequences. This week we will learn how negative unification led to separation amongst all people.



The Word

Today's Scripture:

Genesis 11:1; Psalm 133:1; John 17:20-23; Romans 15:5-6

If you have traveled overseas, you may have experienced the difficulty of language barriers. In high school, my French teacher told me story about the intricacies of language. She was living with a family in France while in college. Her host cooked an elaborate meal one evening. My teacher told the host that the meal was excellent and that she was very full. The children's eyes grew big and adults began to snicker. Her host quickly explained that her terms for "very full" meant "pregnant" in French.

Language barriers lead to miscommunication. But this was not always the case.

Genesis 11:1

¹Now the whole world had one language and a common speech.

Verse 1: Imagine being able to travel anywhere and not experience any problems with reading signs or talking to new people or listening to the radio or watching television. At the beginning centuries of the earth, the people were unified in their language.

Of course today this is not the case and later this week we will learn how this happened. But for now, let us address unity.

Psalm 133:1

*¹How good and pleasant it is
when brothers live together in unity!*

Verse 1: Unity is precious. It is something to be cherished, as long as we are rallying around the correct cause. As believers, unity is something that should be evident for we are called to it.

John 17:20-23

²⁰My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²I have given them

the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: ²³I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Verse 20-23: Unity within the church is vital for the expansion of the church. Barriers between churches cause a resistance to the gospel in the community. The same is true for divisions within one church. When we choose to fight amongst ourselves, we are hindering the opportunity for the unsaved to believe and receive the gospel of Jesus Christ.

As believers around the world, we may not share the same physical language, but we can share the same spiritual one. Our common language is Christ. We are to be unified in Him so that we may be unified with one another.

How is unity in the church achieved? It is only possible in God, through God, and by God.

Romans 15:5-6

⁵May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, ⁶so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Verse 4-6: If you are struggling with someone in the church, meditate on the verses from Romans. The Lord desires that we give Him glory together. This is corporate worship. It is only possible by receiving a spirit of unity. You must ask God for it. This gift is a willingness to lay aside petty differences and live together in a harmony that gives glory to God.

Up Close and Personal

Confess anything that keeps you from having the spirit of unity.

Why would disunity cause a bad witness to a watching world?

If someone is a source of disunity at your church, how should the person be handled?

How is unity fostered among a body of believers?

In the future, when someone or something in the church is bothering you, how can you handle the situation in a way that will keep the unity?

DAY 2

Today's Scripture:

Genesis 11:2, 9:1; Matthew 28:19-20; Ephesians 5:13-20

The Word

I have heard stories from people who share how they had known that God had called them to do something and they stopped following his direction in their lives. Some ignored the call outright while others followed for awhile and then chose their own way. Once they got off course, they made more decisions contrary to His will. The regret they experience would break your heart.

A world of people forsook their call. This one bad decision led to more which spiraled into a divided world.

Genesis 11:2

²As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

Verse 2: At first glance, this verse does not seem like a big deal. However, once you know their calling, then you will understand how they no longer followed the way of the Lord.

Genesis 9:7

⁷As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it."

Verse 1: The commission was to fill the earth, not just stay in one place. They had been given an adventure: to see new territory, to experience new things, to live by faith, to go throughout the world. Instead, they chose to settle. They wanted what was comfortable, what was easier, what was more stable and predictable. It sounds a lot like our spiritual lives. We have been given a grand calling, but are we accepting it?

Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Verse 19-20: We have been called to go throughout the earth and fill it with new believers. It is an exciting adventure. Yet, how many of us have settled on the “spiritual plains”. We are not living out our calling but instead have accepted a safe and mediocre spiritual experience.

Ephesians 5:13-20

¹³But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said:

*"Wake up, O sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."*

¹⁵Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. ¹⁹Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Verse 13-20: Wake up! Get off the plains and live the world-wide adventure. Make the most of every opportunity. Life is short. Don't waste it on a boring spiritual existence. It is time to move on. We need to live a life that impacts those around us. Now is the time to live out our calling.

Up Close and Personal

Ask the Lord to give you His vision of people coming to God through you.

How have you settled in your spiritual journey?

What hinders you from living out your calling?

In what way can you begin to follow the leading of the Lord?

Who can you ask to hold you accountable to get off the “plains” and begin living the spiritual adventure?

DAY 3

The Word

Today's Scripture:

Proverbs 16:18, 28:26; Genesis 11:1-4; Isaiah 55:9

What causes sin? What leads to us falling away from the Lord? Pride.

Proverbs 16:18

*¹⁸Pride goes before destruction,
a haughty spirit before a fall.*

Verse 18: Pride comes before the fall. You can trace every sin you commit back to this terrible attitude of our hearts. If you have not taken time to evaluate pride and its effects in your life, do so now. For when you do not humble yourself, you will commit more sin against God, and consequences will follow. The people of the world, however, did not check the pride of their heart and it built literally into more sin.

Genesis 11:1-3

¹Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. ²As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

³They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar.

Verse 1-4: The people knew that they were called to fill the earth. But they decided to stop along the way. Then, they got the idea of making brick and mortar, intending on building a city. However, this was not enough. They wanted more than just a city.

Genesis 11:4

⁴Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

Verse 4: They wanted a tower, and not just any tower but the tallest tower ever made. They wanted to reach the sky. It would be bigger and better than every tower. This tower would bring renowned fame.

Isn't fame what our culture longs for? Musicians, actors, and sportsmen are literally called "stars". They are "above the earth", like a tower that reaches the heavens. We put them on these high pedestals that no human deserves. There is only One who is above the heavens. He alone deserves honor due His Name.

For those of who aren't famous, we may think the sins committed by the people building the tower do not relate to us. However, if you are attempting to make a name for yourself in anyway, then you are in sin. We are not given gifts, resources, or a personality to give glory to ourselves. Instead, everything about us should be agents of giving glory to the Lord.

Besides elevating themselves to a position that no one deserves, another sin the people committed was attempting to be the masters of their own fate. They said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens...and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

They had determined that they were in control of God's will for their lives. They did not seek Him, instead they used their own reasoning and determined what was best for them. Of course, only God alone knows what is best for us. To choose our own way, leads us down a destructive path. In their attempt to build, they tore down their relationship with the Lord.

I recall one time speaking to a music minister about praying over decisions. His response was, "I believe God gave us a brain to use." I was taken aback and said, "I trust His thoughts over mine." We have a limited viewpoint. We need to rely on the Lord for helping us make wise decisions. God wants more for you than you could ever desire for yourself. Trust His reasoning, not yours.

Isaiah 55:9

*⁹As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

Verse 9: His ways and thoughts are far beyond ours. The people attempted to be like God by positioning themselves high in a tower that reached the heavens. But they did not understand by elevating themselves physically, they could not be elevated in thinking, in feeling, or in living. They would be the same, only standing on higher steps. It is foolish they even thought that. But every time we choose to do things "our way", we are foolish as well.

Proverbs 28:26

*²⁶He who trusts in himself is a fool,
but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe.*

Verse 26: Do not trust yourself. Trust God. Walk in His ways.

Up Close and Personal

Confess the pride in your heart. Humble yourself before the Lord.

Give examples of ways people try to build a name for themselves.

In what area of your life do you struggle with trusting God's ways instead of your own?

How can your trust in the Lord grow?

DAY
4

The Word

Today's Scripture:

1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 2 Chronicles 16:9a; Genesis 11:4-7

All of us spend time doing something. How do you spend each day? Each night, evaluate what you did for the last 24 hours. Did you do anything for the kingdom of God? We are called to invest in the eternal life.

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

¹⁰By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. ¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹²If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. ¹⁴If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. ¹⁵If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

Verse 10-15: We are to build on the foundation of Jesus Christ. Everything done for the Lord is like gold, silver, or costly stones. All other actions which are temporal and meaningless are like wood, hay or straw. Are you building what will last for eternity or will it be burned up in judgment? These are questions all believers should ponder.

The people of the tower of Babel were building unto themselves and not unto the Lord.

Genesis 11:4-5

⁴Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

⁵But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building.

Verse 4-5: The Lord sees what we do. Our actions are not hidden from him. Just as he viewed the temporal and worldly efforts of the people, so He sees us today.

2 Chronicles 16:9a

⁹For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him...

Verse 9: The eyes of the Lord look for those who are committed to Him. He gives strength to those who live for Him. But for those who will not, He will tear down the works of their hands.

Genesis 11:6-7

⁶The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. ⁷Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

Verse 6-7: The Lord knew that together the people's sins would grow. They would think of more and more perverse ways of exalting themselves. The people would then lead their children into the same foolish sins. They were building a lifestyle that would affect the future generations. By the grace of God, the people were stopped. The sin they were committing was no longer able to continue.

The people were building the tower out of brick and tar. But from the eternal viewpoint, their building was wood, hay, and straw. Think about what you are building in your life. From God's viewpoint, what does it look like? Is it something He wants you to stop building or is it something that He will strengthen you to continue to build?

Up Close and Personal

Ask the Lord for Him to show you how you are building your life.

What in your life needs to stop?

In what area do you need the Lord's strength to keep living for things that have eternal value?

How have you experienced the grace of God by His interfering with your sin?

How would you live differently if you kept in mind the fact that the Lord's eyes are always upon you?

DAY
5

Today's Scripture:

Genesis 9:7, 11:8-9; Matthew 12:34-37

The Word

God's plans are never thwarted. I find that comforting. His will is always carried out. He is not limited by anyone or anything. The power of God amazes me. However, I am also humbled to know that the way God may carry His plan out is not necessarily ideal for me.

Genesis 9:7, 11:8

⁷*As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it."*

⁸*So the LORD scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city.*

Verse 7, 8: The plan of the Lord for the people to fill the earth had not changed. He had told the people to do this. Just because they decided to stop on a plain, God's will was not affected. His directive would still be carried out. However, because of their sin, they would not live on the earth as they had before with a common language. Instead, they experienced the division of language. Then, they were scattered on the earth-to fill it, just as God had said.

Genesis 11:9

⁹*That is why it was called Babel—because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.*

Verse 9: Imagine talking to someone and suddenly you do not understand what he is saying. You tell him, "Why are you muttering?" But the look on his face shows that he is confused by your words. You both begin to speak, somewhat afraid of what is going on. Your friend pulls someone to you to try to mediate but neither of you understand what he is saying. The three of you are all becoming frightened. You hear other people yelling, experiencing the same dilemma. Your friend hears a voice of someone he understands. They are talking and yet you cannot even grasp one word. You are no longer able to speak to your friend. You sadly walk away.

There were broken relationships that day. Friends could no longer converse. The consequence of sin was broken relationships. We still feel that division today. Language barriers prevent many people from coming together.

Sadly, even when we speak the same language, our words can still divide us.

Matthew 12:34-37

Verse 34-37: We will stand before God and give an account. Did we use our words to build bridges in our relationships or to tear one another down? Our words reflect our heart. The babbling at Babel was due to their hearts desire to sin against God. Our words are either babble or godly. Either way, they reflect the true condition of our hearts.

Up Close and Personal

Confess any words that did not reflect the good of the Lord. If you need to ask someone's forgiveness, make every effort to do that today.

How do you feel about giving an account of all of your words to the Lord?

Approximately what percent of your words spoken on a daily basis reflect the good in your heart?

How can you increase the percentage of the good things you say each day?

What do you need to do in order to prevent saying what is evil?