Building Bridges

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INTRODUCTION

- I want to talk a little bit about this concept of building bridges from a spiritual concept, of course.

1 A Need to Remain Separate From the World

2 Corinthians 6:16–17; 1 Corinthians 15:33

- There is a need for us to remain separate from the world in the way we think and the way that we conduct our life.
- Therefore, come out from among them and be separate.
- If we're just like everybody else, then we're not God's people.
- Be not deceived. Evil companionships corrupt good morals.

2 In the World, But Not of the World

1 Corinthians 5:9–10

- But the balance to that is that we don't isolate ourselves.
- I do not pray that you should take them out of the world. But that you should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.
- Yet I certainly did not mean with this sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous or extortioners or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.

3 God Built a Bridge Instead of a Wall

Isaiah 59:1–2; John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8–10

- Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you so that he will not hear.
- He had every right to build a wall between us and him. Instead, he built a bridge.
- For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
- It is a bridge of grace, the provision for us to be right with God has been made by God's grace.

4 We Must Meet His Conditions

John 14:6; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38

- I am the way, the truth and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by me.
- When we think about the idea of salvation is undeserved, it doesn't mean it's unconditional.
- He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.
- What we need to repent of is anything in our life, whether in our thinking or in our actions, that is against the will of God.

5 Tear Down the Walls We Put Up

- We need to help build bridges to help other people to come where we are, if indeed we are in Christ.
- We first of all sometimes have to tear down some of those walls that we might be putting up.
- If people see you as a hypocrite, how likely are they to want to be where you are?
- We have conversations that we're more interested in winning an argument than we are in winning a soul.

6 Follow God's Example in Building a Bridge

1 Corinthians 13:1–3; 2 Peter 3:18; 1 Corinthians 9:19

- We need to really follow God's example in building a bridge. First of all, love.
- Though I have faith so that I can remove mountains, but have not love. I'm nothing.
- They don't care how much you know unless they know how much you care.
- I really need to give people more than they deserve.
- Be swift to hear and slow to speak. Listen more than you talk.

THE CHALLENGE

Are you building bridges? Are you building walls? Which is it? Think about your activities and what you're doing. And if you're here and you've not made the decision to follow Christ, have you crossed the bridge he provided for you?

MY NOTES