



SERMON NOTES

Steve and Brenda's Charge to Antioch

Steve & Brenda Jellicorse // 12-31-23

MULTI-GENERATIONAL FAMILY ON MISSION

1 Cor. 3:1-23 ESV

But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, 3 for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? 4 For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human?

5 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 8 He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

10 According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled[b] master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. 11 For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw — 13 each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. 14 If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

16 Do you not know that you[c] are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? 17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

18 Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," 20 and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." 21 So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, 22 whether Paul or Apollos or

Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, 23 and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

1 Cor 4:1-2 ESV

4 This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. 2 Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.

I. UNITY

Spiritual maturity manifests through unity. Those who are ready for more than spiritual milk are those who can maintain unity.

- a. Mere lapse of time does not bring Christian maturity.
- b. Competitiveness is antithetical to Christian love.
- c. Merely human is not our destiny.

II. FARMERS AND BUILDERS:

Metaphors: Fields and buildings, Agriculture and Construction, Organic and Structural, Flexible and Rigid

- a. **Foundation is Jesus Alone:** The Master builder is limited to building on the Foundation is Jesus who was the rejected cornerstone. No human being can sustain the life of a church. Pastor's and preachers move on to other assignments. Only the life of Jesus can sustain the life of a church.
 - i. Not a matter of how successful,
 - ii. popularity,
 - iii. effectiveness, or
 - iv. commended by men. Value will be dependent on the materials that go into the building. Gold and precious stones or wood, hay, stubble?
- b. **Community Life not just individualistic spirituality.** Value of the building is a function of our corporate life. Not just our individual relationship with the Lord.

c. **Building metaphor** speaks of requirements related to structures, materials, methods, functionality.

d. **The major structural methods 5 Circles or Spheres of Church:** Circle 1 is your individual life and relationship with the Lord. Circles 2-5 are about our corporate life. We life we build together is more than the sum of the individual parts.

e. **Explorers and Pioneers, Settlers and Developers:** In 2011, Colby and Jennifer Lehmann were pioneers, original founders. Coming to Raleigh, found the location, cleared the land, surveyed the land. In 2019, Steve & Brenda received the assignment to lead Antioch. Steve has always received prophetic words about building footings and foundations. Even in his career, he was a builder and a developer. Creating places for people to live. So it is no surprise that our assignment was to build solid footings and foundations.

III. MATERIALS IN THE BUILDING

i. **Core Values:** Initial messages were about core values. These are footings.

ii. **5 D-s of a Devoted Disciple Then in 2020**, we started developing the 5 Ds of a Devoted Disciple. Materials Decided – This is the foundation.

b. **Comparison is a slow growing spiritual cancer to unity:** Corinthians were aligning themselves with humans. This was a lowering of their value. They were a building of God! Not a building of Paul or of Apollos. Antioch Community Church is a building of God, not of Colby & Jennifer or Steve & Brenda. Such comparison is futile. Paul saw the futility in making these kind of comparisons.

IV. FAMILY

Another metaphor in the scripture that describes church

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:19-22 ESV)

Hallmark scripture of Antioch

Isaiah 54:2-4 ESV

1 “Sing, O barren one, who did not bear;
break forth into singing and cry aloud,
you who have not been in labor!

For the children of the desolate one will be more
than the children of her who is married,” says the Lord.

2 “Enlarge the place of your tent,
and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out;
do not hold back; lengthen your cords
and strengthen your stakes.

3 For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left,
and your offspring will possess the nations
and will people the desolate cities.

4 “Fear not, for you will not be ashamed;
be not confounded, for you will not be disgraced;
for you will forget the shame of your youth,
and the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more.

5 For your Maker is your husband,
the Lord of hosts is his name;
and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer,
the God of the whole earth he is called.

13 All your children shall be taught by the Lord,
and great shall be the peace of your children.

14 In righteousness you shall be established;
you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear;
and from terror, for it shall not come near you.

a. **Antioch’s 5 Year Word of the Lord Graphic (see above).** We are a multi-generational family on mission.

b. **Family raises the bar of relational dynamics:** Church must grow in relational health by grace filled identification of dysfunction and growing past it.

c. **The world does not fault us for our incorrect, incomplete, imprecise doctrines. It faults us for failing to love one another.**

d. **Our Life Message:** The importance of family is a life message for the Jellicorse's.

He who would learn to serve must first learn to think little of himself.

