



Rebuilding our Church Pt 3: Built upon Love and the Power of God!

July 19, 2020

Holy Texts: John 13:31-35; Luke 24:46-49

- Again, Welcome to [Calvary Reformation Church!](#) 😊🙌🙏🙏
- Last week, we said if we are going to “build” or “rebuild,” we better make sure we are building on the right foundation!

First, and foremost, we must be built upon Christ!

1. Jesus is the Son of God! (John 3:16-18)
2. Jesus is God the Son! (John 1:1)
3. Jesus is the Word of God!
4. Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords!
5. Jesus is the Creator of all things!
6. Jesus is the Head of the Church!
7. Jesus is the Savior of the World!
8. Jesus is Risen!
9. Jesus has all power and authority!
10. Jesus is the Judge of all men!

We were reminded that He called it “My Church;” He owns it! He Alone is its Chief Pastor and Bishop. This means:

1. That we should honor and reverence that which belongs to the LORD!
2. That we are stewards of the LORD and therefore must be found faithful in our ministry! (1 Cor 4:2)
3. That fear and trembling (as well as love) should be the order of the day (Acts 5:11, 19:17) since Jesus holds the seven stars and walks among the seven golden candlesticks. (1 Pet 1:17; Rev 1:20)

We were also reminded that the Church is built upon the Rock of Christ and that we are called out and commissioned to advance on the gates of hell. We are lively stones, being built up into a spiritual house...a holy priesthood that offers up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. We are a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people, that we should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called us out of darkness into His marvellous light.

Secondly, we were reminded that we are Built upon His Gospel!

This is the great truth that Jesus Christ, the Son of God and God the Son, came to this earth through the virgin Mary, revealed the truths of God, lived the perfect life in our place, died on the cross to pay the penalty of sin that we might be brought into relationship with God. He rose again on the third day, and gives eternal life to those He has called, who believe in Him by His grace and through faith. Those who reject Him will spend eternity apart from Him in Hell. At a future date, He will return to complete the restoration of God’s creation.

Amen! Let’s go a bit further in our foundation checking!

Built upon Love!

John 13:31-35 (KJV) *Therefore, when he was gone out, Jesus said, Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in him. 32 If God be glorified in him, God shall also glorify him in himself, and shall straightway glorify him. 33 Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you. 34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

A Few Observations:

1. Love is a commandment of Jesus! It is not optional!
2. Much like a husband's love for his wife (Eph 5:25), the standard for such love is Christ's own!
 - He said, "as I have loved you!" How did He love?
 - **Ephesians 5:2 (KJV)** *And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour.*
 - He loved us sacrificially! This is our measuring rod!
 - We are commanded to "walk" in such sacrificial love! It is not a one-time event!
3. Our love is supposed to be so great, so powerful, so different that the world is supposed to be able to SEE it and KNOW that we follow Jesus!
 1. **Since love is what the church must be known for, then love (along with humility and truth) must be a chief virtue of the church; a foundation stone!**
 - **Galatians 5:13 (KJV)** *For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.*
 - **1 John 3:16-18 (KJV)** *Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? 18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.*
 - **Philippians 1:9 (KJV)** *And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;*
 - **1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 (KJV)** *And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: 13 To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.*
 - **Romans 13:8 (KJV)** *Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.*
 - **Colossians 3:12-14 (KJV)** *Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a*

quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. **14** And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

- **1 Peter 4:8 (KJV)** And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.
- **1 John 4:10-11 (KJV)** Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. **11** Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.

4. Perhaps Paul summarized it best in 1 Corinthians 13:

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (KJV) Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. **2** And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. **3** And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. **4** Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up. **5** Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; **6** Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; **7** Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. **8** Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. **9** For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. **10** But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. **11** When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. **12** For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. **13** And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NLT) Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud **5** or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. **6** It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. **7** Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

5. So here are **three** suggestions that would, if followed, ensure CRC is firmly founded on love:

- First, Pray that God would renew our love for Him and one another; that such love would be poured out afresh into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. (Rom 5:5)
 - Love can sometimes grow cold; this opens the door for iniquity to abound (Matt 24:12)
 - Like every other part of our spiritual lives, it needs prayerful attention...

Joshua 23:11 (KJV) Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye love the LORD your God.

Jude 1:20-21 (KJV) *But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, **21** Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*

- A prayerful remembering of the first works, repentance, and doing those first works again is the way! (Rev 2:5)

Revelation 2:4-5 (KJV) *Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. **5** Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*

- Second, Pray that our renewed love would lead us into all the other Fruit of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:19-23 (NLT) *When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, **20** idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, **21** envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. **22** But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!*

- Third, Pray that our renewed love would have teeth! 😊 This means it would result in lawful and sustained ACTIONS within our fellowship! (Rom 13:8-10; 1 John 3:18)

- Like moving towards one another (staying connected) instead of away
- Like repenting to and forgiving one another quickly and joyfully
- Like serving one another and the church consistently and passionately
- Like rejoicing with one another and weeping with one another
- Like encouraging and praying with and for one another
- Like holding one another lovingly accountable when we sin or need correction
- Like providing for one another as needs arise

Built upon the Power of God!

Luke 24:46-49 (KJV) *And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: **47** And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. **48** And ye are witnesses of these things. **49** And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.*

A Few Observations:

1. Jesus said these words after His Resurrection, just prior to His Ascension to the right hand of the Father.

6. He was going away bodily, but was going to send His Spirit upon His followers, the Church.
7. This was of great importance. The Church would NOT be able to accomplish its mission in its own strength. This is STILL TRUE! Jesus said:

- **John 14:15-18 (KJV)** *If ye love me, keep my commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. 18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.*
- **John 14:26 (KJV)** *But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*
- **John 16:7-11 (KJV)** *Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.*
- **Acts 1:8 (KJV)** *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

8. Jesus did what He said He would do. We read about this in Acts:

- **Acts 2:1-4 (KJV)** *And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

9. And although there are a few different views on how the Holy Spirit operates in the Church today, every orthodox, biblical church knows that they need His power! Here are some lessons we can learn from the pilgrim church in Acts 1-2:

- They were obedient to Jesus. They tarried as instructed.
- They were unified; they were “with one accord.”
- They were “in one place;” they were spiritually, emotionally, and physically together. (Heb 10:25)
- They understood their need; they knew they needed to be “endued with power from high.”
- They began their ministry in great power because of the Presence of the Spirit of God!

10. What was the result?

- People (of all ethnicities, from all over the known world) immediately noticed (they were different!) and heard the “wonderful works of God.” (Act 2:5-11)

- Powerful preaching came forth from Peter, pricking the hearts of those who heard. They asked, “What shall we do?” (Acts 2:14-37)
- People were saved and added to the church!

Acts 2:38-41 (KJV) *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. 40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. 41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*

- Now, we know that narrative is not necessarily normative and descriptive is not always prescriptive, but I believe we should pray for this sort of power and Kingdom impact and trust the LORD for His will to be done!

2. May Calvary Reformation Church be characterized by the Presence of God. May we be able to declare like Paul:

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 (KJV) *And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. 3 And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. 4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: 5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.*

May our church manifest Paul's prayerful words concerning the church at Ephesus:

Ephesians 3:14-21 (KJV) *For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; 17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; 19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. 20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, 21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*

Amen!