

Text: 1 Corinthians 3:9  
Topic: Promoting Spiritual Growth in the Church  
Study: The Church is a field: Guide to Maturity  
First Corinthians  
Week 1 of 3  
Series 8

River of Life Church  
August 29, 2010

Pastor Gary Davel

**God's Work.....God's Way**  
***"Promoting Spiritual Growth in the Church"***

NT GREEK: 3619 oikodomō; building, edifice; building up, edification<sup>1</sup>

Various words are used to describe the dwelling: building, temple, edifice, structure and dwelling place. However "Building" (oikodome) is the word we are looking at.

The progression of these passages seems to suggest that *Oikodome* is "life" word. In Eph. 2:21 it is not just the structure but is a dwelling place. Dwelling place has with it the idea of intimacy.

**Text for today: 1 Cor 3:1-10**

And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; 3 for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? 4 For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal? 5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. 7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. 8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. NKJV

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<sup>1</sup>(from Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament © 1990 by William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. All rights reserved.)

## Application Questions

*These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. Take time this week to study and write out your response to each of these questions. This will help drive home the point of today's message and will help you to apply the principles to your life situation.*

- 1) Write down and commit to memory 1 Peter 2:5

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Is this scripture telling you to be/do something? Write out your answer.

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- 2) Read Ephesians 4:29 and 1 Corinthians 3:16. Paul wanted the Corinthians to think more as a unified assembly and less as a collection of competing interests or independent individuals. What actions could you take this week to *strengthen* your ties to fellow Christians in the church of Jesus Christ?

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- 3) In Ephesians 4:16 we see the power of what it means not just to be a 'building' *but also to be one that promotes spiritual growth*. Would you consider yourself to be a person who promotes spiritual growth?

- a) What actions could you take this week to *promote spiritual growth* in fellow Christians in the church of Jesus Christ? Write down a few ideas.

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- b) Write down the names of two individuals whom you need to edify or build-up. (Then get to work)

A) \_\_\_\_\_ B) \_\_\_\_\_

- 4) Remember, there is no perfect Christian family or community. We are all in need of emotional, mental and spiritual healing. Only Jesus is perfect. In fact Jesus was the only perfect member of the first century Jewish community. Consider this: He was more scripturally knowledgeable and more spiritual than the temple teachers, he certainly was not a hypocrite, yet, as was His custom (Luke 4:16) he went to the temple/synagogue (Local church). If Jesus valued fellowship in the midst of contradiction– so should we.