

Build, Maintain or Abandon

Hebrews 6:11, 12 – *And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, ¹²that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*

- “**sluggish**” – having or showing a disposition to avoid exertion; lacking in spirit or interest.
- **One Translation**: “*bored with being a Christian.*”

Matthew 16:17-19 – *Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹“And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”*

- “**I will build**” – to build (up from the foundation); metaphorically, to promote Christian growth.
- “**My Church**” [literally, the church of Me]
 - **Smith’s Bible Dictionary** – The derivation of the word probably connected with the Latin & Greek words meaning “circle”, because the congregations were gathered in circles.
 - **Vine’s** – *ekklesia*, was used among the Greeks of a body of citizens “gathered” to discuss the affairs of state. In the NT it refers to the whole body of Christ, those meeting in a certain district and individual gathers.

Ephesians 1:22, 23 – *And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, ²³which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

Ephesians 4:11-13 [NLB] – *“He is the one who gave these gifts to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. ¹² Their responsibility is to **equip** God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ, ¹³ until we come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature and full grown in the Lord, measuring up to the full stature of Christ.”*

- “**equip**” – to make one what he ought to be.
 - Repairing whatever has been broken or torn.
 - Fitting out with the proper equipment.
 - Arranging in the proper place.
- “**build up the church**” – basically the same word as used by Jesus: “*I will build My church.*”

Hebrews 10:24, 25 – “*And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵not forsaking the **assembling** of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*”

- “**consider one another**” – implies both an awareness and concern for those around you. [Purposely setting your mind on them]
- “**stir up**” – stimulate; spur on; to sharpen; to irritate, provoke, arouse to anger.
- “**not forsaking**” [vs. 25] – abandon, desert, leave in straits, leave helpless. (AMP added “**neglected**”)
- “**manner**” – become their custom or habit.
- “**the assembling**” – a gathering together in one place.
 - **Note:** there are many excuses for not gathering, but few reasons.
 - **Note:** Each piece is unique ... Each piece is necessary.
 - **Note:** We need an assembler.
 - **The glue?** Love!!

Question: are we building, maintaining or abandoning the church?

What are our responsibilities?

Mark 12:29-31 – *Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one.’ ³⁰‘And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. ³¹“And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”*

- Don’t allow yourselves to become sluggish. [Bored with being a Christian]
- Develop (redevelop?) the habit of assembling.
- Develop an awareness & concern for your brothers & sisters.
- Discover your functions in the body of Christ.
- Be teachable.
- Put off those things that destroy relationships: judgments, criticisms, jealousies, moodiness, self-centeredness,
- Invest & Invite – invest in the lives of others and invite them to a function.