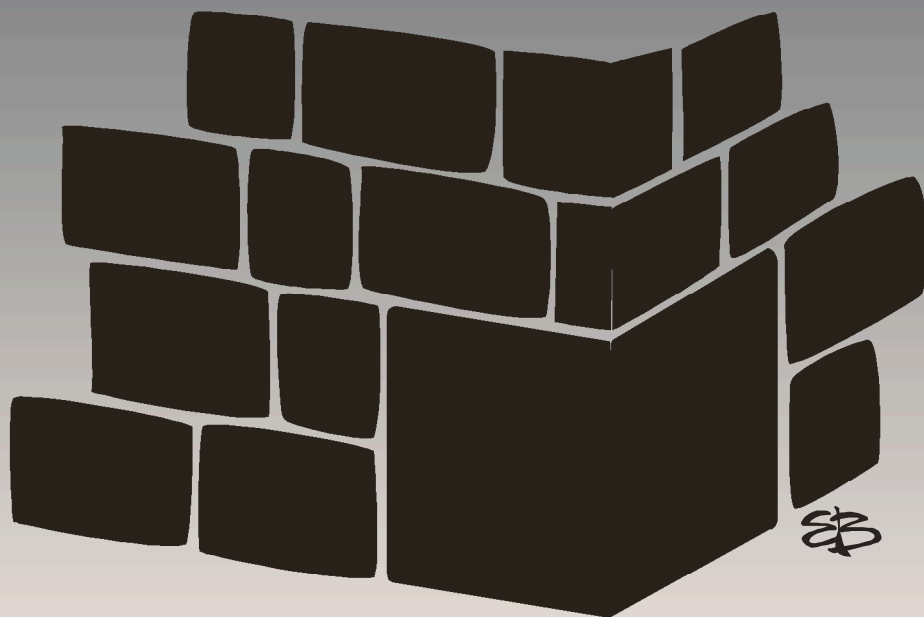


CROSS † TRAINING

A Basic Discipleship Course

*Growing in love
for God and others!*

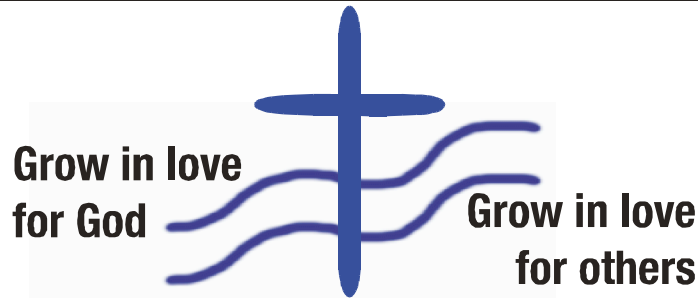
CORNERSTONE



STONES

God's design for me

CROSS TRAINING



Cross training is a basic discipleship course designed to develop a solid Biblical grounding for Christians in their early Christian walk. Ideally, this material should be led by a mentor. This twelve booklets are founded on Jesus' summary of all the commandments in Mark 12:30-31.

“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Father ~ child
Shepherd ~ lamb
Teacher ~ disciple
King ~ kingdom
Bridegroom ~ bride
Judge ~ sinners
Priest ~ people
Master ~ servant
Redeemer ~ chosen
Cornerstone ~ stones
Husband ~ wife
Vine ~ branches

The scriptures integrate our relationship with God with the relationships with other people. We cannot grow in our relationship with God more than we are willing and able to grow in our relationship with other people. The opposite is true too. We cannot grow in our relationship with others any quicker than we grow closer to God.

Cornerstone – Stones

The Scriptures tell us Christ was chosen to be the key foundation or cornerstone to God's glorious spiritual building, His Temple. It is astonishing to discover that Christians are the 'living' stones that comprise this spiritual building. Our unique position speaks powerfully about how we are to relate to Christ and to other 'living' stones!

Advantages of *Cross training*

- ✓ Flexible to meet the needs of the student.
- ✓ A balanced understanding of spiritual living.
- ✓ Emphasizes imitation of Jesus Christ.
- ✓ Integrates needed Biblical doctrines.
- ✓ Uses familiar relationships to illustrate Biblical truths.
- ✓ Lots of practical applications to daily living.
- ✓ Teacher suggestions are provided with the discipleship kit.
- ✓ Free to copy, modify, distribute and translate only not for profit.

*A passion for
God and a love
toward others.*

Biblical Foundations for Freedom

www.foundationsforfreedom.net

NASB used unless mentioned

Cornerstone ↔ Stones

Built To Last

Jesus used many different symbols to describe Himself and His followers. The cornerstone is an architectural term. The cornerstone is the main foundation stone from which all other building blocks are measured and aligned. Christ is the cornerstone for the new spiritual temple that is being built.

Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, A costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed. (Isaiah 28:16)



The Jewish temple was destroyed in 70 AD. What is this new 'building' that has Christ as the cornerstone? God appointed Christ to be the first and most important 'stone' in His new 'temple,' the cornerstone. God positioned Him as the cornerstone of a specially designed building. Our hope is sure when we believe and follow Jesus Christ.

This new temple is the church, the people of God all built on Christ. We who believe in Christ are the figurative stones that compose this building together forming the glorious new Temple of God where God dwells.

For we are the temple of the living God' just as God said, I will dwell in them, and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be My people (2 Corinthians 6:16).

Our Goals



Christ embraced
God's design



Embrace God's design
for my life



Christ is our
Cornerstone



Focus on Jesus for
effectiveness



Christians are
living stones



Lovingly work
with other



Embrace God's Design

Christ embraced God's design as cornerstone

1) Christ's Example

Christ unquestionably embraced His Father's will for His life. He trusted God's design was best. He believed that all would work together to accomplish God's great salvation plan. *"And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God"* (1 Peter 2:4).

Circle the word in the above verse that states how people treated Jesus. Underline the words describing how God thought of Christ.

2) God's General Design

The cornerstone is the main foundation stone that every other stone is aligned with. In order to erect a marvelous building, it must have a trustworthy and solid foundation stone. The whole building depended upon it. We know the Lord not only chose the cornerstone but also selected each building block or stone to build the walls.

Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit (Ephesians 2:21-22).

We as God's people are part of this 'temple' construction. Circle the three phrases that describe what is being built. In order to fit in we need to accept how God has designed and made each one of us. Remember that our lives are designed with this final 'building' in mind.

3) Expansion of His Building

The Lord expands His building by saving people. Write down 2 passages that help explain this saving process.

4) God's Specific Design

Think through your own life. Are there any things that you would like to change about your life? Here are some that people want to change: background, physical features, socio/economic standard, race, sex, nationality, other.

God wants you just the way you are! The 'unchangeables' are built into our life so that you can properly function well in His new Temple. There are things that we can and should change like our sinful thoughts and decisions. But the unchangeables must be accepted and embraced.

We are to rejoice in our wise God's design for our lives and serve Him just like Jesus did even if it means we are rejected by others.

Application:

- 1) Underline any aspect mentioned above that you have wanted to change.
- 2) Confess your sin and ask for forgiveness by Christ.
- 3) Praise the Lord for making you just as you are! List at least 10 unchangeable things about yourself in the space below. Praise God for each of them.

NOTES

B

Focus on Jesus

Christ is now our Cornerstone

1) The Foundation

Each building stone is fit into the whole building by its alignment to the cornerstone. Circle the word ‘corner stone’ below.

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow-citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,“ (Ephesians 2:19-20)

What makes up the foundation? _____

The foundational teachings of the church of God are established through the prophets from the Old Testament and the apostles from the New Testament. We must reject the teachings of those who differ with the scriptures because they reject not just the apostle’s teaching but Christ’s teaching as well.

2) The Distraction

One of the evil one’s tactics is to get our eyes off Jesus the Cornerstone. Some Christian pastors and teachers will seek to please others. They speak the compliments people like to hear. Some focus on satisfying their pleasures. Paul gives us a caution on how we are to build.

Let each man be careful how he builds upon the foundation for no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ... Each man’s work will become evident ... because it is to be revealed with fire. (1 Corinthians 3:10-13)

Everything will be judged by how well it complies to the Lord’s building codes. The building materials must match the foundation which is Christ. Think about your own life. Which area do you have the most problem with? Put a check mark next to it.

- ☐ Pride: Trying to boost my ego by presenting a good image.
- ☐ Jealousy: Wanting the attention another person is getting.
- ☐ Envy: Desiring something that another has to look ‘cool.’
- ☐ Critical: Making ourselves look better than another.

We authenticate our faith when we look at and live by Jesus’ standard. Peter once asked Jesus about John’s future. Notice how Jesus’ response pulls Peter back to focus on Him.

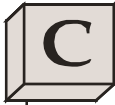
“Jesus said to him, “If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me”” (John 21:22).

Application:

Close this section with a prayer. Ask the Lord to give you a heart that always focuses on Christ Jesus. Confess your tendency to be distracted as noted by your check mark above. Commit that area of your life to the Lord and seek His deliverance.

PRAY

NOTES



Teamwork & Love

Christians are living stones

1) Our Design

The Christian will never be able to get around having Christian ‘neighbors.’ God designed His building (temple) to be comprised of Christians.

You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:5).

Every Christian is a _____ stone. These stones are spiritually dynamic. They change their shape and grow as needed!

2) Our Relationships

This is what we find in daily life. As Christians, we need to continually make adjustments to our expectations and deepen our understanding of one another. We need to be careful not to get upset when a fellow Christian disagrees with us or does things differently. Circle the phrase below that Jesus uses twice.

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another (John 13:34).

3) Our Commitment

Love is the oil that keeps Christians caring for each other. God’s love should deeply influence our own lives through two means:

(1) Belief that other Christians are important and valuable. We find this true in the way that God has specially fitted them to be part of God’s temple. They are also ‘living’ stones just like us. A stone wall with missing stones crumbles rather quickly.

(2) We are commended by Christ to “love one another.” No matter what happens, whether we wrongly suffer loss or shame, we are still to love one another. Our commitment is shaped by God’s love for us.

One other principle is important. Because we are not perfect, we are to master reconciliation. We need to learn how to straighten out a relationship that has deteriorated.

Reflection: I once shared a hotel room with a brother that was friendly enough, but we differed on how to carry out ministry. I could have pretended that everything was fine but that would have been deceitful. Instead I chose to love him. I purposely thought about him as a special member of God’s body. I couldn’t do without him. After prayerfully allowing these truths to touch my heart, I could really begin to care for his needs. The Lord led me to graciously share a few of my concerns. Other concerns I trusted into the Lord’s hands.

Application: Think of one Christian you have difficulty with. Because he is also a living stone, begin to think of him (or her) as very important. Because of his importance, do everything you can to encourage and help him. Even go the extra step and praise God for that Christian.

NOTES

CROSS † TRAINING

Summary

- A** I need to fully accept the way God made me.
- B** All my decisions must please the Lord.
- C** I must be committed to “love one another.”

Take Home Projects

• Memory Verses 2 Corinthians 6:16

For we are the temple of the living God’ just as God said, I will dwell in them, and walk among them; And I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

• Project Reconciliation

Think of one fellow Christian where your relationship needs improvement. Follow these steps.

- 1) In a prayerful spirit, detect if you have any fault.
- 2) If so, confess your fault to God. Overlook the other person’s offenses.
- 3) Seek out an opportunity to apologize to that person.
 - Confess your specific sin.
 - Ask him to forgive you.
 - If necessary make restitution.

Sometimes a person chooses not to forgive. You have done what is needed on your side. Keep praying for the person. Others take the opportunity to mention their sins and ask for forgiveness. That becomes a special blessing. Give thanks.

We should keep going through this process until there are no missing apologies. Once done, all these issues move to the past. You can focus on building up your fellow living stones.

• Project Teamwork

Did you know that the term ‘living stones’ wonderfully depicts the biblical concept of teamwork? Each stone closely fits together forming a whole wall. Teamwork greatly adds to the effectiveness and joy of work just so:

- (1) Someone clearly is in charge,
- (2) The team members are committed, and
- (3) The team members care for each other.

Think about your marriage, family, church, colleagues in light of this concept. Are there any ways that you could do better in your position? Make any necessary corrections.