



# **THE LESSON OF LEGO**

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### The Example of Lego

Lego is a wonderful toy. We have seen all sorts of things built enthusiastically by the young and even the not so young. We have seen amazing scale models of all sorts of things built from Lego, even a full size house.

But what can this teach us about building a Temple fit for the Lord?

We can see ourselves as each being a Lego brick. Different shapes, sizes and colour.



We are all unique individuals with our own personalities, talents and giftings from the Lord, but the real blessing is when we are put together to build a church. The Lord loves oneness and togetherness and He is building His Church with us as the Living Stones

#### **Ephesians 2 v 19 - 22**

*Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.*

#### **1 Peter 2 v 4-5**

*Coming to Him [Jesus] as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, **as living stones**, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

#### **2Co 6:16 b**

*... For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people."*

#### **Romans 12 v 5-5 + Eph 4 v 16**

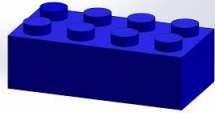
*For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.*

*. from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*

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### First look at the building block



Before start considering the building, we should first look at you, the individual brick. If you have truly given your life to Christ Jesus you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought safe into the kingdom of His dear Son, by whom you are set free and your sins are forgiven. [see Col 1v13&14]

More than that you have been raised to a new life in Him, and His treasured possession. For example:

#### You are unique, wonderfully made

**Psa 139:14** *I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvellous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.*



#### You are adopted as a child of the Living God

**Eph 1:3-7** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace*

**Rom 8:15-17** *For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*

**Gal 3:26** *For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.*

#### You have Eternal Life

**John 10:27-28** *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me, and I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.*

**1Jn 2:25** *And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life.*

**1Jn 5:11-13** *And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.*

#### You are a temple of the Holy Spirit

**1Co 6:19-20** *Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

#### You are a New Creation .. Created in Christ Jesus

**2Co 5:17** *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

**Gal 6:15** *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.*

**Eph 2:8-9** *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

#### You are a priest-king, chosen by God

**1 Peter 2 v 9-10** *But you are a **chosen generation**, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.*

So you need to start recognising what the Lord has actually invested in you, and seeing that you do have an important part to play in the Body of Christ.

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### But before we get big-headed:

**1Cor 1:26-31** *For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."*

**2Co 4:7** *But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.*

Our "earthen vesselness" of course this works both ways... we cannot say we are not up to our calling if God has chosen us and he has given His Holy Spirit to enable us. Indeed we should expect to be insufficient in our own selves, but "our sufficiency is from God".

Our standing before God and our righteousness is by the Blood of Jesus, His work and His Grace in our lives. We will never earn our righteousness, but the Lord positions us in His Grace so we can launch into his Plan and Purposes for our lives in His Kingdom.

**Tit 3:4-7** *But when the kindness and the love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

### God is at work in your life to prepare you for glory.

**Php 1:6** *being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;*

We cannot play our part fully if we do not recognise, with humility but not denigration, the essential part we all have to play, being "workers together with God"

**Php 2:12-13** *Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*

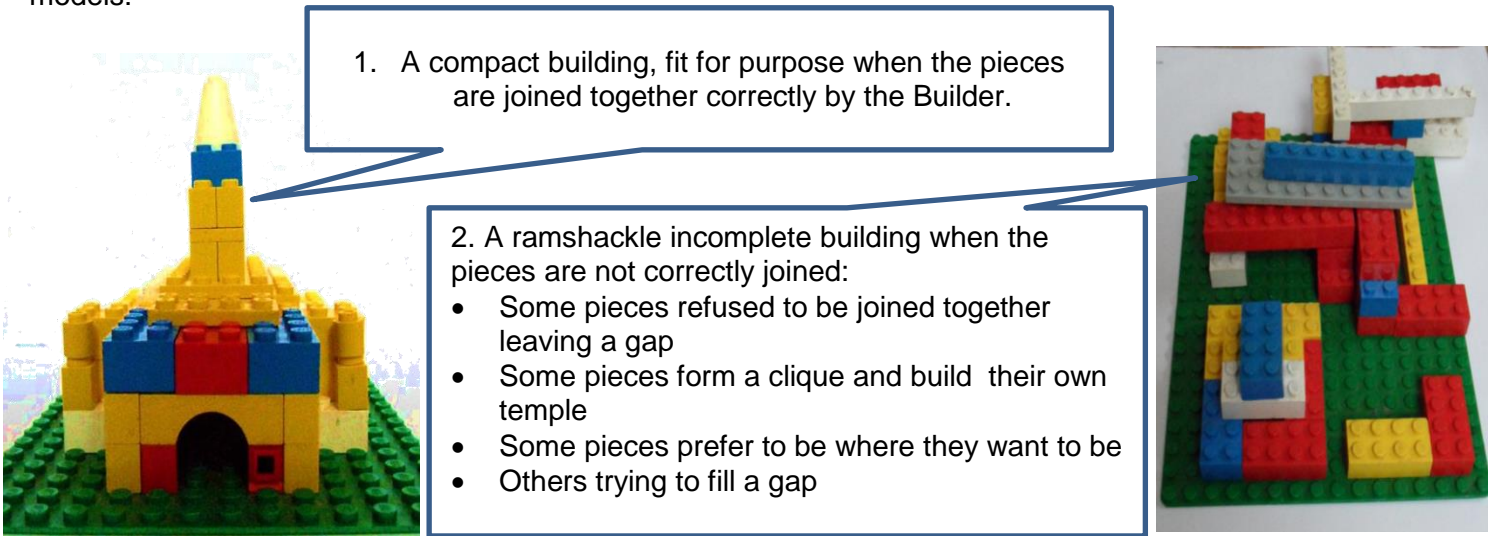
So we are sinners who have been are being saved and will be saved, but we are saved for a purpose and that primarily is being worked out in the Family of God. It is our togetherness and corporate identity that is key.



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### BUILDING GOD'S TEMPLE

If we put all these wonderful brick together we can get that Temple that the Lord refers to, but lets' look at 2 models:



#### 1Co 12:12-27

*For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many.*

*If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be? But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.*

*And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. And those members of the body which we think to be less honourable, on these we bestow greater honour; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honour to that part which lacks it, that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.*

**What we should seek to do is to:**

- ✓ **Recognise who we are in the Lord**
- ✓ **Seek to understand our part in the Body**
- ✓ **Let the Lord fit us in as He directs. Note there was no hammering in the building of the first temple, as it was all shaped and done offsite. The Lord does not want us to have all those uncut parts of our lives preventing us from fitting together.**
- ✓ **Be a team player and recognise the place of others. Be an encourager.**

*2Co 5:16 Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer.*

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### THE BODY IS A “WE” NOT A LOT OF “ME’S”

We must take a family or corporate view and not be individualistic, and never self-centred.

Individualism is a trait of our age and of this world. It is certainly not biblical. Whilst we are prized unique individuals before the Lord, are individually accountable to Him, and he has that personal relationship with each of us, our life and calling is to be one Body. In this we honour one another and enhancing one another, just like an orchestra or choir, where each voice or instrument has its own part, but works in harmony. When a choir or orchestra competes with each other it is a cacophony!

#### **Phil 2 v 1 -16**

*Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfil my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.*

*Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*

*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.*

*Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

*Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*

*Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or laboured in vain.*

We are of course primarily a family and the Family of God. Blood they say is thicker than water, and the Blood of Jesus in which we share should be even more so.

Church is not to be treated like a club, society where we chose what we want. Even worse it is not like a supermarket to choose or own particular brand. Yet this is how so many behave today, where they pick and choose based on what pleases them.

**2Ti 4:3** *For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.*

### In summary

- ❑ We are God's Temple (Temple is a meeting place of God)
- ❑ Built together as Living Stones
- ❑ Jesus is the chief cornerstone
- ❑ We are
  - Chosen
  - A royal Priesthood
  - His own special people
  - Called to proclaim His praises and wonderful mercy
- ❑ God dwells and walks among us
- ❑ There should thus be a sense of awe and expectation when meeting together
- ❑ We are also a body with Christ as the Head, maturing in Him. Every part supplying to the whole
- ❑ Recognise who we are and also see each other in the Spirit not just the flesh
- ❑ Prepare to be honed and slotted in where the Lord wants us
- ❑ Help and encourage each other. We are a team!  
We have had team GB in the Olympics so how about Team Kingdom of God!



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## GIFTS & MINISTRIES

In the Old Testament the Lord raised up men such as Bezalel and Oholiab when building the tabernacle in the wilderness. They were equipped with all the skills needed to make the tabernacle and its equipment:

**Exo 35:30-35** *Moses said to the Israelites, "The LORD has chosen Bezalel, the son of Uri and grandson of Hur from the tribe of Judah. God has filled him with his power and given him skill, ability, and understanding for every kind of artistic work, for planning skilful designs and working them in gold, silver, and bronze, for cutting jewels to be set; for carving wood; and for every other kind of artistic work. The LORD has given to him and to Oholiab son of Ahisamach, from the tribe of Dan, the ability to teach their crafts to others. He has given them skill in all kinds of work done by engravers, designers, and weavers of fine linen; blue, purple, and red wool; and other cloth. They are able to do all kinds of work and are skilful designers.*

Similarly God equips each of us through the Holy Spirit to provide all we need together to build a temple of the Lord:

**1Co 12:4-12** *There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.*

Actually the meaning it is the manifestation of the Holy Spirit rather than the gifts. Also note difference between Gifts and ministries. Whatever we have we should use it in humility and as part of our worship, and to build up the Body. The gift is not for you it is for building the body and the Kingdom of God.

**Rom 12:1-8** *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

*For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.*

**In summary we have:**

### 1COR12 v 7 – 12

- Word of wisdom
- Word of knowledge
- Faith
- Gifts of healings
- Working of miracles
- Prophecy
- Discerning of spirits
- Kinds of tongues
- Interpretation of tongues.

### Add to this

- Teaching (1 Cor 14 v 26/Col 3v16)
- Revelation (1 COR 14v26)
- Psalms/Hymns/Spiritual songs (Col 3v16 Eph 5v19)
- Exhortation (Col 3v16 Romans 12v8)
- Prayers/Intercession (Romans 8)
- Giving (Romans 12v8)
- Leading (Romans 12v8)
- Caring (mercy) (Romans 12)
- Ministering (Romans 12)

There is a lot more on this especially in 1 COR 12 /13/ 14, Ephesians and Romans, but that has been taught on a number of occasions and the aim here is to inspire and encourage rather than get into detail.

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### **IN CONCLUSION**

#### Remember

- Live knowing you are a temple of the Holy Spirit.
- The Lord has an eternal purpose and plan for your life that is being worked out now
- You are an essential part of the Body. Ask the Lord and seek to fulfil your part
- Our corporate life as His Temple and Body is a must. Be team !
- Look at yourself and others after Christ not after the flesh
- Love and encourage one another
- Seek to use the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and the gifts/calling He has given you, for the building up of the body. These are not for just for you! If you do not you are robbing the Church and ultimately the Lord. Remember the story of the Talents.
- It is not about how big or small these things seem, it is about being faithful. The widow's mite!
- Let the Holy Spirit be at work in your life. Do not be reluctant. Work out that salvation in you. Do not talk yourself down, yet be humble before the Lord.
- Finally **“Lego and Let God”**

The time to start is NOW.

*Heb 13:20-21* Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

