

# Are You Building Your Temple?

**Introduction.** Although David was not permitted to build the temple (2 Samuel 7:1-17; 1 Chronicles 28:3), and although he knew that he would die before it was built, yet he threw himself into preparing for Solomon's work with as much zeal as if he were going to be its builder (1 Chronicles 22:2-5). David left temple plans and patterns for Solomon, which he received from God (1 Chronicles 28:12, 19), and he also left a huge amount of gold, silver, brass, and iron for the temple (1 Chronicles 22:14).

The term "temple" is used in the New Testament in a dual sense. Sometimes it refers to the church (1 Corinthians 3:16-17; Ephesians 2:21; Revelation 21:22), and sometimes it is used in a personal sense (1 Corinthians 6:19; 2 Corinthians 6:16). Today, we are not going to use it in either of these senses, but in the sense of your future and your family. We are going to see that there is no substitute for preparation.

## I. ***Build It In Love***

- A. Love is the greatest of all emotions (1 Corinthians 13:13). It must be the basis for everything we do. Promote love for God (Matthew 22:37), love for family (Colossians 3:19-21), brethren (1 Peter 2:17), and the lost (Mark 10:21) with your children.
- B. Furthermore, they need to learn to be benevolent (Galatians 6:10) and merciful (Luke 10:25-37). Being merciful is a great way to reflect God's mercy.

## II. ***Build It In Devotion***

- A. Show yourself faithful and devoted to Christ (2 Corinthians 5:12-15; Revelation 2:10). It will nearly be impossible to demand of them to show up and enthusiastically help in a local congregation if you refuse to do so.
  1. A simple way to build devotion is to read the Bible to your children. Show them that reading is important to you (Nehemiah 8:3, 8, 18; 9:3; 13:1; cf. Psalm 119:11).
  2. David (Psalm 40:8), Isaiah (Isaiah 6:8), Jesus (John 4:34), Saul (Acts 9:6), and Tychicus and Onesimus (Colossians 4:7-9) were all devoted to the Lord's cause.
- B. Show them your devotion by developing your talents (Matthew 25:14-30). Work toward becoming better or accomplishing something new. That will teach them to build themselves up for the betterment of the kingdom.

### III. ***Build It In Relationships***

- A. David left one of his best friends for Solomon: Hiram, king of Tyre, who "was ever a lover of David," and who helped Solomon for David his father's sake (1 Kings 5:1).
- B. Help them develop good friends like David and Jonathan (1 Samuel 18:1-4). Encourage relationships among Christians, and discourage wicked friends, like Amnon and Jonadab (2 Samuel 13:3-5).
- C. Encourage the respect of older members in the congregation (Leviticus 19:32; Job 30:1; Proverbs 16:31; 20:29). Their wisdom can help immeasurably in your life in your finances, your marriage, your children, and in issues among brethren (Titus 2:1-6).

**Conclusion.** It is noble and touching to read David's enthusiastic provision for the temple which he would never see. We should have a similar unselfishness toward those who will follow us. God help us to leave our children and grandchildren the moral materials for the building of their lives as living temples (1 Peter 2:5). May we leave our children patterns which we have received from God; and may we leave them godly friends who will be wise and willing helpers of them when we ourselves have passed beyond.