

July 27, 2019

Local Conference Advance

What is the church? If you were to ask the average person on the street, “What is the church?”, they might reply, “It’s a building.” We as Christians know that the church is much more than a building—it is a building made of people. First Peter 2:5 says that we are living stones being built into a spiritual building. The people are the building materials, and they are also the building. The Holy Spirit lives inside us. We are literally God’s temple.

There are different types of buildings, and there are different types of building materials. There are foundation stones, and there are windows, and shingles, and many other parts, and in their place, they are irreplaceable. Shingles don’t make good windows, and windows don’t make good foundations, but in fulfilling their role they are indispensable. Paul related this in 1 Corinthians 12, using the metaphor of the body, each part with a different, but important role.

What would this building be without all of its valuable parts, and what if you were missing body parts? You would be impaired, less able to function. The same with the church, which is made up of people. Without everyone doing their part, we are not able to function as we could. And just as an arm or a leg would get weak and atrophy without exercise, so the individual Christian will grow weak without using their gifts.

Today, God is again giving us the opportunity to exercise the gift of generosity and faithfulness. Let us all give cheerfully.—by Pastor Jason Brooks, adapted from a church newsletter.