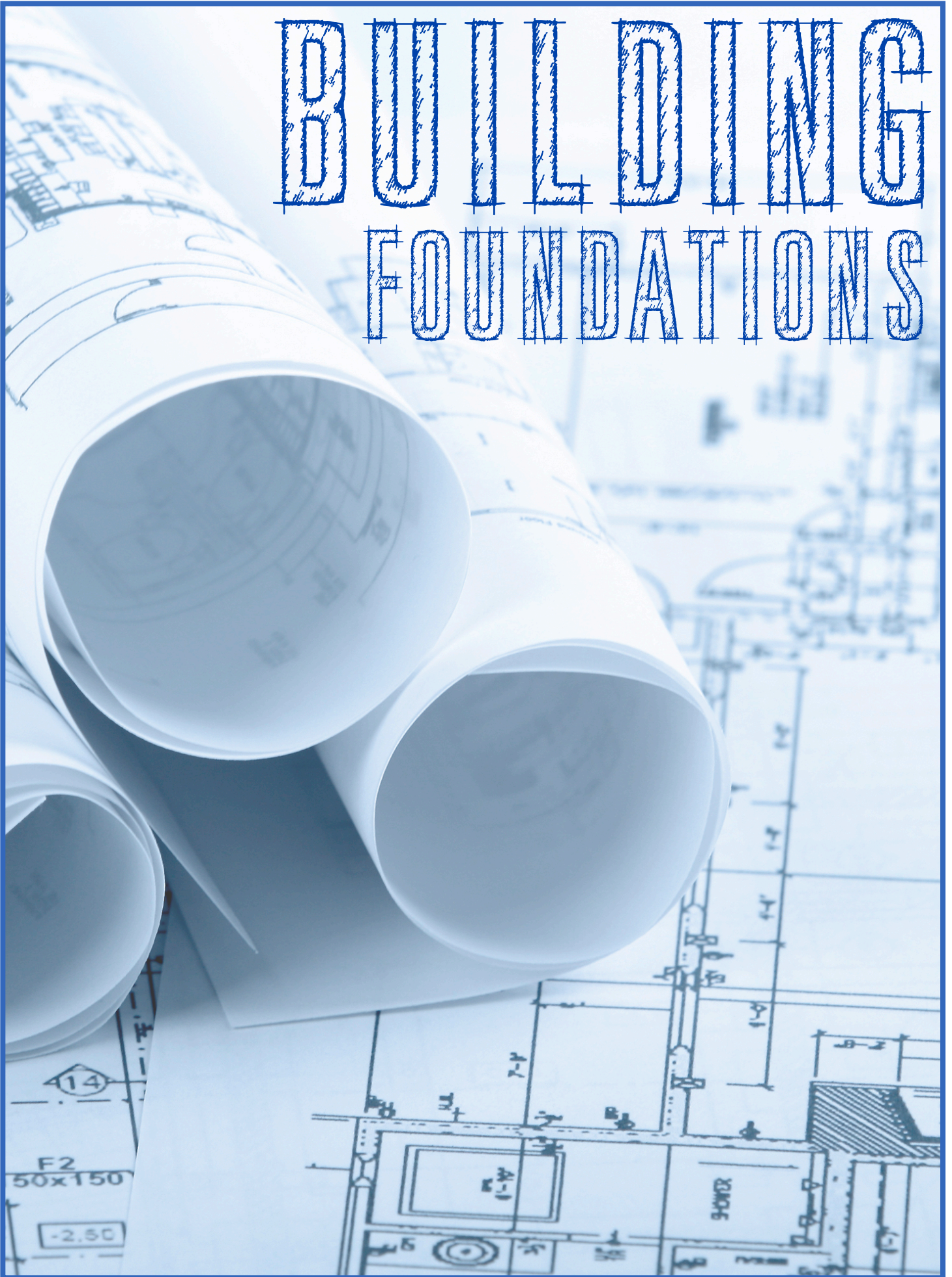


BUILDING FOUNDATIONS



Introduction

► Objectives of this Bible Study

- To establish you and prepare you to live a life of following Christ
- To instill a desire to spend time with God daily
- To provide thought provoking interaction with others around the Bible

► The Wheel

Just as any wheel in balance must have the hub directly in the center, any life in balance must be centered on Christ. He is the power source for a dynamic Christian life just as the wheel is driven forward by the power of the hub. The direction of any wheel also comes from the hub and so every mature believer follows the Lordship of Christ. He sets the direction for their lives.



Christ the Center

Galatians 2:20

John 15:5

Obedience to Christ

John 14:21

Romans 12:1-2

The Word

1 Peter 2:2

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Prayer

Matthew 7:7

Philippians 4:6-7

Fellowship

Matthew 18:20

Hebrews 10:24-25

Witnessing

Matthew 4:19

Romans 1:16

- The rim on a wheel is where the rubber meets the road. This is living the daily life of following Christ by being obedient to His commands.
- The spokes represent the basics of walking with Christ. Every believer must have these elements in their life in order to grow consistently and fruitfully. The vertical spokes depict our relationship with God. The foundational spoke is the Word. In His Word God speaks to us and we get direction from Him. Through prayer we speak to God, sharing with Him our needs we praise His greatness and confess our sins.
- The horizontal spokes depict our relationships with people - Fellowship is our relationship with Christians. We share the love of Christ with one another. Witnessing is our relationship with those who don't know Christ. We share the reality of Christ and His gospel by our words and our lifestyle.

Reality of Christ the Center

► Is Jesus the Center of Life?

Look up Colossians 1:15-17. List some of the characteristics of Jesus mentioned in these verses.

Are these verses less true for someone who does not trust in Jesus? Why or why not?

► Is Jesus the Center of *my* Life?

Jesus is the center of all things, yet He only lives in the individual's life who receives Him through faith as the Lord of their life (Ephesians 3:17, Galatians 2:20).

Read Romans 10:9 and Luke 9:23-24. How do I make Jesus the center of my life?

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:9

If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it.

Luke 9:23-24

Look up 1 Corinthians 10:31. What are the implications of Jesus as the center of my life?

Read Ephesians 2:8-9. What is the basis of our relationship with God? What is it not based on?

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

► Evaluating the Center of My Life

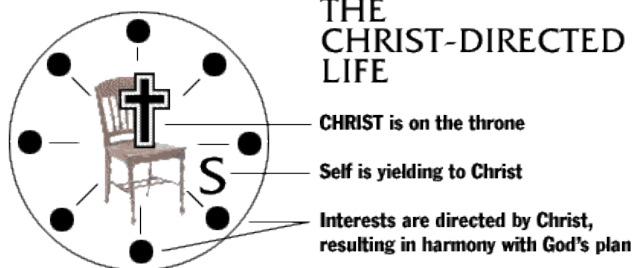
Your college years will be the most foundational years of your life in determining your beliefs, values, convictions, and lifestyle. It is crucial to honestly evaluate where you have come from and where you are at in the way you view life and Christ. The following questions will help you to evaluate these:

1) What are your goals, passions, dreams, and priorities during your time in college?

2) What are some areas of your life in which Christ is the center?

3) What are some areas in your life in which you have yet to allow Christ to be the center?

4) What is stopping you from allowing Christ to be the center of *all things* in your life?



Discuss as a group what this would look like on a day-to-day basis if you were to live this out.

Reality of the Satisfied Christian

► Our Search for Life

On your college campus, whether you are...

An ATHLETE, seeking a scholarship or starting position,
OR a STUDENT hoping to land the right job,
OR looking for the perfect RELATIONSHIP,
OR just trying to find the next PARTY

God has made us for Himself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Him.

-Augustine

We are all looking for life.

► Our Design

God created man to find life in a personal relationship with Him. All drives within man are ultimately designed to guide him to this life - finding PURPOSE, SECURITY, AND FULFILLMENT.

Purpose - Finding satisfaction through achievement or success

Security - Finding love and acceptance in relationships

Fulfillment - Finding pleasure through one's lifestyle and experiences

Read John 10:1-18.

How is Jesus' relationship with the sheep described in this passage?

Read John 10:10 again. What are the implications of this in our pursuit of:

Purpose

Security

Fulfillment

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

John 10:10



This is what being a Christian is all about:

Life - life eternal with God *and* life here and now living out the very purpose for which you were created.

God alone can give life because He created life, and He can give it abundantly beyond your wildest imagination. Only He can give our lives purpose, security, and fulfillment.

► **Does God want me to be Satisfied?**

God created each of us with desires - desires for food, water, and shelter; desires for love and affection; desires for attention and for success. Every person has similar general desires but you also have desires that are unique to you.

What are some of your desires?

Read Psalm 145:13-19.

What is the relationship between our desires and our relationship with God?

What does He want you to do with your desires?

The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. The Lord is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made. The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them.
Psalm 145:15-19

What does God reveal about Himself and us in these verses?

Psalm 107:9

for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.
Psalm 107:9

John 6:35

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty."
John 6:35

John 7:37-38

On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."
John 7:37-38

According to this study and to the Bible, what will it look like for you to live as a "satisfied Christian?"

Reality of Your Position in Christ

► The Reality Apart from Christ

What do these verses say about a person without Christ?

Ephesians 2:1-3

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

Ephesians 2:1-3

► The Reality of the Cross

The Cross of Christ changed everything. God was pleased to have all of his fullness dwell in Jesus and make all things right again through Him, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through His death on the cross.

Read the following verses which show the new reality made possible by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:4-5

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved.

Ephesians 2:4-5

Titus 3:4-5

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

Titus 3:4-5

Colossians 1:22

What word do each of these verses begin with?

But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation[...]

Colossians 1:22

What does this "but" refer to?

► Am I “in” Christ?

Read Romans 8:1.

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:1

Most of us are “in” some type of club or organization: a fraternity or sorority, a service organization, or an athletic team. As a member of that institution, you have certain rights, privileges, and responsibilities - and other people identify you as being in that group.

For a Christian, what does it mean to be “in” Christ?

What privileges, exemptions, and responsibilities come with this?

Imagine you are dropped out of a helicopter into the ocean and you immediately sink to 200 feet below the surface. If the helicopter pilot looks toward you, he can no longer see you. He only sees the water and waves of the ocean that has engulfed you. You are in the ocean and he cannot see you, he only sees the ocean.

Similarly, you are in Jesus and you are engulfed by Him. When God looks toward you He no longer sees you, He sees His Son. He does not see your struggling and shameful sin, He only sees perfect, sinless Jesus. If you have trusted in Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, your new position is “in Christ!”

Read Romans 8:38-39.

What can separate you from the love of Christ?

Why can’t your sin separate you from the love of Christ?

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, not any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

