



new life fellowship

**Sermon Title: How We Got Here: Put the Brick Down**

**Speaker: Rich Villodas, Lead Pastor**

**Scripture: Genesis 11:1-9**

Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. The Lord said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

*Genesis 11:1-9 (NIV)*

#### **Sermon Outline:**

- The story of the Tower of Babel is about the people of Babel building a tower in isolation from God. The higher their structure went in Genesis 11, the more unstable their structure became. Not because of the way the structure was built, but because their motive was wrong. Humanity continues to go in its own destructive ways – away from the very presence of God. They wanted to make a name for themselves, but their pride got in the way – they were building in isolation from God.
- We can choose to build our lives in obedience to God or to build a life in isolation from God.
- Noah built the ark out of obedience to God. After the flood, instead of humanity moving towards God, they moved away from Him.
- Through this story of the Tower of Babel, God exposes the problems of pride and fear – two fundamental characteristics that God sees we can build our lives upon.
- God had told them to be fruitful and multiple and fill the earth with God's presence, instead they stayed local, built a tower and did not fulfill his mandate to go through out the earth. Although there was unity within the people of Babel, there was uniformity. Uniformity creates the groundwork of excluding and marginalizing others
- God decides to come down and scatters them so he can send His presence throughout the world, as they were called to fill the earth. God shows them how true significance comes in Genesis 12, where God continually says I will make you... (into a great nation, make your name great).
- Everytime you try and give yourself a name, a title, or an identity in an accomplishment, you forfeit the identity Christ has for you.
- If you rest in His love, you will be enough. No matter what you think you are building to impress others, it will never be enough, put the brick down, stop building, and rest in Him.

- God has a name for you, god has a destiny for you, god has a mission for you. Put the brick down – stop building – only God can give you an identity – only God can name you.

### **Sermon Summary:**

This Sunday Pastor Rich continues our current sermon series How We Got Here by discussing the story of the Tower of Babel, exploring the two problems that marked the building of this tower and how these problems continue to impact our lives and the world in significant ways.

### **Sermon Questions:**

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin, was there a value to reach out to others who were different or was there more of a value in surrounding yourself with people from your social/economic status, religion and/or culture?
3. When you take an inventory of whom you choose to surround yourself with, what similarities do you see? What differences? What group or type of person(s) is most difficult for you to be around? What does that tension say about you? Has there been a time when God's faithfulness in your life has felt foolish? What difficulties do you have in remaining faithful? What does it mean to walk faithful with God?
4. We often feel we are not enough and our religion can turn us away from Christ and to reaching that goal to feel as if we are enough. When was a time in your life you felt you weren't good enough unless you accomplished or did \_\_\_\_\_? We long to be enough-in our need to be enough we are prideful.
5. If you believe that you are enough, being made in the image of God, how would that change how you deal with those who are different, or you don't agree with?