

Introduction:

- Review of last Sunday.

I. We are the 'raw materials' God uses. We are "it!"

A. The Workmanship of God.

1. *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."* (Ephesians 2:10, NKJV)
 - a) *Poiema* - Gr. creation, work, action. "His creative is amazing, His rhythm is unmatched, His movements are seamless! Do you want to dance?"
 - b) God made the raw materials! And God builds, (makes) the house.
 2. *"Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it."* (Psalm 139:14, NLT) Heb. *ma-aseh* to do, or doing. *pala* - marvelous, to go beyond ones capabilities. God created us! That is why when we look at each other we should stand amazed!
 3. *"But now, O Jacob, listen to the Lord who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, "Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine."* (Isaiah 43:1, NLT) I am talking about us being the raw materials that God uses to build the house!
 - a) Heb. *bara*-The root *bārā*³ has the basic meaning "to create." It differs from *yāsar* "to fashion" in that the latter primarily emphasizes the shaping of an object while *bārā*³ emphasizes the initiation of the object." Mccomiskey, T. E. (1999). R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 127). Chicago: Moody Press.
 - (1) God took the initiative to create you! God does not make mistakes! God is good! And you are an original! Ie. Baseball cards. If there are lots of them they are not as valuable. 1943 copper penny is worth \$85,000! You are an original!
 - (2) The word *bars* also carries the connotation of initiating something new! *"If any man be in Christ he is a new creation."*
 - (3) God provided his own 'raw materials' in creation. He supplied His own raw materials in the plan of redemption...starting with the Jews (Is 43:1). His plan now, in building a spiritual house, is to use you (the raw materials) to do that.
- B. He is the master craftsman! IE. Song *"Something beautiful, something good. All my confusion He understood. All I had to offer Him was brokenness and strife. But He made something beautiful out of my life.* Romans 5:8 *"God demonstrated His love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were yet sinners."*
1. Sinner - those who live in conscious opposition to God's will.
 2. As sinner we were 'a mess'. Hatred, angry, sexually promiscuous, liars, etc. We were broken, depressed, discouraged and rejected. That is the raw material we were before coming to Christ.

- C. *"God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it."* (Ephesians 2:8-9, NLT) You are saved by God's grace when you believe!
1. You are saved by grace. What is Grace? - grace is God's ability in me to do the things I cannot do in and of myself.
 2. You get the grace by believing, by faith! Faith is trusting something to be true. I.e. Sitting in a chair. Most people do not wonder if a chair is going to hold them. They just sit down. To trust Jesus is to make Him Lord of your life.
 3. It is a work of God and you cannot take credit for it! All you do is believe.
 4. When you get saved by grace, by God's ability in you, that never goes away! It will always be a part of you life as long as you believe!
 - a) Grace is the activator in the raw materials. I.e. like yeast in lump of dough. or like the activator put into epoxy resin.
 - b) I.e. It is like putting gravel in concrete, sugar pie mix, or salt in the ocean. Now watch this...

II. Grace the critical key in the building process.

- A. Defined: Grace is God's ability in me to do what I can not do in and of myself. As a believer I am full of grace. Grace is God's ability. Grace is to the spiritual man what water is to the natural man. Grace is to the spiritual man what water is to creation. Scientists are always saying that if we find water we may find life. Grace will always be a part of the believers life! It is the "God part" in the new creation! It touches every area of your life and will be used of God to other people.
1. Saved by grace. Eph. 2:8,9.
 2. Healed by grace. Mt 9:22 Woman you faith has made you well. Faith let her access God's ability and she was healed.
 3. Delivered by grace. Mt 17:17-20 Boy with seizures was healed. Jesus command a demon to leave him. Disciples wonder why they couldn't...little faith. Little access to grace needed to cast demon out.
 4. I am wanting you to see that graces is God's ability in us to do the things we can't do in and of ourselves.
- B. God is building a house with 'raw materials' (you) and grace (His abilities.)
1. There are three different words used in the original Greek to describe our english rendering, "Gifts".
 - a) Charisma - Grace (Undeserved Favor). Found in Romans 12.
 - b) Pneumatous - Spiritual matters [things]. Found in I Corinthians 12.
 - c) Dorea - Gift (General). Found in Ephesians 4.

2. Building gives God the good pleasure of being good! He loves helping, healing, loving, touching, His people through His people. He lets us share in the joy of blessing others.
- C. God is so good...look at the gifts He has given us! (Charis=***)
 1. Gift of Jesus. *"For the wages of sin is death, but **the free gift***** of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 6:23***, NLT)
 2. Gift of Holy Spirit. *"Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you **the gift he promised**, as I told you before."* (Acts 1:4, NLT) Also: Acts 2:38; Acts 8:20; 10:45; 11:17
 3. Gifts for equipping. Five fold ministry gifts: *"Now **these are the gifts** Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers." "Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ."*(Ephesians 4:11,12 NLT) God gave to the church gifts that would help equip them to do the work of the ministry. Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.
 4. Gifts for administering grace. Spiritual gifts:God gave to each person in the Kingdom at least one spiritual gift. Also: Acts 21:10
 - a) *"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all."* (1 Corinthians 12:4***, NLT)
 - (1) different kinds of gifts - diversity
 - b) Each has been given gift 1 Peter . *"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."* (1 Peter 4:10***, NLT)
 - c) Each has a gift 1 Cor *"A spiritual gift (manifestation) is given to each of us so we can help each other."* (1 Corinthians 12:7, NLT)
 - d) Ro 12:7 - gift of prophecy
 - e) Ro 12:8 - gift of serving, etc etc
 5. Gift that come by grace
 - a) Gift of forgiveness Ro 5:15 NLT
 - b) Gift of righteousness Ro 5:17 NLT

III. The call is to work with God and to use our spiritual gifts.

- A. We are the 'raw materials' that God uses. kaleo - we are called out as raw material in order to be assembled into the House of God. We are not to be a rock on the pile but to be assembled into the house. When we are assembled then each part brings something to the 'whole.'
 1. *"Whatever event, word, or action is a concrete expression of grace or serves as a means of grace is a spiritual gift (charisma)." Elwell, W. A., & Comfort, P. W. (2001). In Tyndale Bible Dictionary (p. 1222). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.*
 2. Ie. When I serve others. I am a gift in action. When I give a prophetic word, I am a gift in action. Ie. I was at Frog Bones Thursday. I swept up the brass casings in an-

other man's shooting lane. He said, "*I have been coming here since this place opened I have never had anyone clean up my shooting lane.*"

- B. He lavishes us with grace. Therefore we are to lavish with His grace. Give it away! Result:
1. To the disciples Jesus said, "*Give as freely as you have received!*" (Matthew 10:8, NLT)
 2. "*A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.*" (1 Cor 12:7, NLT)
 - a) We each have a spiritual manifestation to supply to others.
 - b) sumphero - to bring together to profit, for the common good.
 - c) symphony - the sound an orchestra makes when all are tuned and playing their part.
 - d) ***We are created to be related. "*Yes, there are many parts, but only one body.*" (1 Corinthians 12:20, NLT) We are created to relate to one another.
 - e) ***We are created to be interdependent...and to provide to each other. I need your grace. You need my grace.
 3. 12:25 "*This makes for harmony when we care for one another.*" When the body is unified, division or schism is overcome.
 - a) no schism, therefore harmony.
 - b) Gr. *merimano* - to care for, to be concerned, to brood over. Therefore mutual interest and regard.
 - c) The opposites:
 - (1) 12:21 We can't say I don't need you. I.e. to say that is to say I do not need grace
 - (2) 12:22 We can't say I am not important. "I am too weak to help."
 - (3) 12:23 We can't say I'm not good enough - we cover and honor these
- C. Just as he gave gifts to us, His expectation is that we would give away "His ability!" freely as a gift to others.
- a) "*God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.*" (1 Peter 4:10, NLT)
 - b) There are different kinds of gifts 1 Cor 12:4
 - c) There are different kinds of service. 1 Cor 12:5
 - d) There are different ways God works 1 Cor 12:6

Conclusion:

- God is the Builder/Creator.
 - He wants to build a better you. And he wants to build better others.
 - He is going to work through His church. God works through people.
- He is building a house - a place where people connect, relate and help each other.
- We connect to receive from each other and we connect to give to each other.
- What give and receive is God's ability and that is grace!
- Invitation to become a follower of Christ.