

## Small Group Questions Building Blocks #1 – Forming Them

### **PART ONE:**

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1. *Ps1:1-3 Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, <sup>2</sup> but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. <sup>3</sup> That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers.*

Take a few minutes to draw out the gifts of wisdom from this verse – what are you hearing in these words?

2. On Sunday Mike looked at the life of David and how he chose his “building blocks.” Saul was out to kill him. In fact, he had David cornered when he learned the Philistines were attacking his town. That caused Saul to head home. On the way, Saul went into a cave and it just so happened, David was hiding in that cave. David did not kill him, but cut a corner of his robe. David was “conscience stricken” about even this. He had this “building block” that impacted his decisions; something that was non-negotiable: to not harm God’s anointed one.

Name one thing you were taught as a young person that was/is a non-negotiable...you just don’t do it.

3. Read **Proverbs 22:28**
- Translating this from the physical landmarks described, what is the guiding principle here?
  - Why is it the tendency of young adults to move the building blocks they were raised with?
  - Mike talked about deconstructionism on Sunday. What are the positives and what are the negatives of this?  
Discuss also **1 Timothy 4:1**
4. Discuss this point: “It’s important to point out that not all beliefs in a paradigm are of equal importance. Some beliefs are primary and others secondary. Primary beliefs are those at the center that can’t be given up without the paradigm collapsing. For example, if a Christian concluded God did not exist, then the Christian paradigm would collapse since the existence of God is a primary belief of the paradigm. ... Redefining, rejecting, and reinterpreting enough primary biblical truths results not in a watered-down version of Christianity but a different faith altogether.”

What does this mean and why is it critically important to watch out for?

5. **Examining/Forming The Building Blocks Of Your Life**

First: What is going to be your authority for belief and practice?

Here is what Jesus said about this in a sermon he gave:

- Read **Matthew 7:24-26**
- Why is this an important first step?
- What is currently your authority?

Second: Establish Personal Convictions.

You need personal convictions, or else your emotions will rule your actions.

Your Personal Convictions: **MUST BE BIBLICAL** – Read **Psalm 1:2**

- Currently, are your personal convictions Biblical?
- Seriously, are your personal convictions Biblical?*

Third: Develop a Heart That Listens

- Read **John 10:3** – What is the practical outworking of this verse when it comes to our building blocks?
- What are essential practices in learning how to hear God over everything else?

### **PART TWO:**

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IF YOU HAVE TIME – REVIEW THESE POINTS AGAIN:

Break off into 4 smaller groups and have each group take one of these points and discuss it and using your own words and examples, teach it to the bigger group.

- Primary beliefs that need to be affirmed are called Dogma**

Examples: Trinity, humanity, deity, resurrection of Jesus; salvation by faith alone. These beliefs set the boundaries of how far the word Christian can be stretched. To deny dogma and still call yourself a Christian is a contradiction in terms.

**b. Secondary beliefs are known as Doctrine**

Example: someone might hold about the timing of the second coming of Jesus. All Christians believe Jesus is going to return. That's dogma. But not everyone agrees when that event will happen. Doctrinal beliefs are important, but not as important as dogma. Individuals can disagree over doctrines and still be within orthodox Christianity. Disagreements over doctrine are usually the result of interpretive differences. Many doctrinal differences exist - denominations are differences over doctrine.

**c. Because of false teachings - statements were needed to identify Christianity – Creeds**

Creeds are a summary of the teachings of NT and a window into the early church. 3 earliest: Apostles' Creed 200, Nicene Creed 325, Athanasian Creed 5<sup>th</sup> century AD. These 3 creeds proclaim the beliefs the church has had in submitting to Jesus.

**d. Passionately Committed followers of Christ find their instructions from the Bible**

We view the Bible as a revelation from God. The Bible is authoritative for belief and practice. We'll call this the historic view.

\*\* There are others who evaluate for themselves what they want to do with the Bible's teachings, and decide for themselves what is trustworthy and how to live them out. Because this view assumes Scripture is not entirely trustworthy, it requires one to shift the authority from Scripture to an authority believed to be more trustworthy, such as experience, intuition, culture. This is called the progressive view.