

Recognizing & Overcoming Satan's Schemes to Destroy Relationships

by: Jim Rinker

The Lord has set forth a certain order in which He chooses to build His house. That order has several levels of understanding which encompass how each living stone is to be set perfectly into the building RELATIONALLY to fit His master plan. **That order includes relationships on ALL levels (individual, family, between callings and gifting, corporately within a local body, and between churches.)** His house is His bride which is made up of individual "living stones" that He is bonding together with the mortar of His love. The mortar that holds the stones together is our relationships to each other IN CHRIST JESUS. The mortar itself consists of a divine mixture of the fruits of the Spirit which are described in both Galatians 5:22-23 and 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a Charity suffereth long, [and] is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 8 Charity never faileth

So foundationally the building is only as strong as the living stones with which it is built. Therefore, as one "stone" hurts, the whole building suffers due to the connection we have to one another and our need to make sure each "living stone" is strong and healthy. In addition, the building is only as strong as the mortar which holds the stones together. A wall that is mortared together properly is AS ONE STONE and is extremely strong and durable. The building itself that the Lord is building which is HIS HOUSE can be viewed pictorially as a pyramid. Scripturally, Jesus is referred to as both a capstone and a cornerstone.

Luke 20:17 And he beheld them, and said, What is this then that is written, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner?

Ephesians 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [stone]

1 Peter 2:6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

Only one building has a stone which can be both a corner and capstone and that is a pyramid. Jesus Himself therefore is a reflection of what the glorious building will look like when it's finished because the detached capstone is a pyramid. The house will directly reflect Jesus Himself in both character and nature.

Paul teaches us concerning this glorious building that: Ephesians 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, [even] Christ 16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Jesus is that head which we are being grown up into so that we may reflect the very image of the capstone. Once the building is finished, that is to say, once we all come to the full stature or measure of a man (full maturity) then the capstone (which is Jesus) will be set on the building and it will be complete.

Ephesians 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ

So the stones of the building then are being set **IN ORDER** so that the building may be completed and perfectly reflect the head which is Jesus. The building needs to be viewed as a "living organism" rather than an inanimate object. What do I mean by that? The building in being ALIVE then is capable of carrying out a function, a function which can only function to it's full capacity when each piece is set in it's proper position. If one part is not set in order or is weak then the body cannot function to it's full capacity. Satan knows this so he has devised a counterattack to prevent this glorious building from being built. The counterattack is divide and conquer. His first priority is to prevent the building from being built. He knows that once built and fully functional he is powerless against it.

Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

In addition to dividing the stones and keeping them from coming together, he will also pervert the building by placing the stones OUT OF ORDER that the body cannot function to it's full capacity or in a perverted manner. So the battle really lies at the FOUNDATIONAL LEVEL. It is more than a unidimensional project because the stones not only need to be placed in relationship but IN RIGHT RELATIONSHIP or a SPECIFIC ORDER. The two foundations being attacked at this time are our personal walk with Jesus and our relationships IN CHRIST to one another. If these can either be prevented or perverted then the glorious building will also be dysfunctional and perverted.

The first foundation has to do with the strength of the individual stone. The stone is only as strong as the degree to which it was been subject to the Lord's molding and shaping process. So this first foundation is our relationship with Jesus and is counterattacked by the divide and conquer scheme through offenses. The Greek word for offense is [4625] skandalon and is the trigger mechanism by which we are caused to stumble or fall away from the pathway. The "offense" is sent by the enemy to divide or separate us from our relationship with the Lord. Offenses are counterattacked by love and desire. Offenses "need be" as Jesus stated: Luke 17:1 Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offenses will come: but woe [unto him], through whom they come!

They are turned "for good" when they are allowed to deal with our personal issues that separate us from the fulness of relationship with Jesus and when the offense is used to build passion and desire and an overcoming spirit within us. The second foundation is likewise attacked through offenses. Satan, knowing that the building is only as

strong as the mortar that holds the stones together, has made this a battleground. If the stones can be kept apart or unglued then the building will not function as it should and in many cases in a perverted manner if the stones are glued together out of order. He does this on the individual level, family level, corporate level, between churches, gifting, and callings. Individuals are the "living stones" but in addition we can view 'the prophetic' as a living stone or "the teachers" or "the local body". So relationships as defined here transcend one on one relationships and are also multidimensional. I want to address five ways we give the enemy "footholds" to cause the offense to turn into a division. This list is by no means complete but I rather offer some simple ways by which we give the enemy ground to cause division and simple counter-measures to take this ground away.

1. Misunderstanding

The word misunderstanding can be taken as "missed" understanding or lack of understanding. It is when we do not properly understand what another person or group of people either said or intended. The Lord said in: Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge

If I do not understand what another person said or intended and I do not ask them (relationship) what they meant or intended then I can open the door wide to IMAGINATIONS. Imaginations are in the realm of the enemy. They operate in our mind and are false thoughts that are planted in our minds to pervert what we do not understand. Knowledge and understanding come from the Lord and He promises us wisdom if we ask.

James 1: 5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all [men] liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

Often times that wisdom comes in the form of simply asking the other person what they meant rather than a direct word of knowledge. This keeps us humble and forces us to relate to one another, especially when we don't want to.

2. Assumption

Assumption breeds from misunderstanding. It is a foothold that is gained when we REFUSE to ask the Lord for wisdom and knowledge or we REFUSE to rightly relate to one another. Assumption is built on lies and therefore what we think is then dictated upon lies rather than truth. Assumption works hand in hand with IMAGINATION and festers as a oozing wound that becomes much in need of healing. Jesus told us that it would be the truth that set us free. When we fully know those things which were intended instead of what we speculate then we be set free from the prison houses of our imaginations and the bondage's that keep us divided.

3. Unwillingness to Relate

Misconception often forms when we are simply unwilling to relate to one another properly and ask simple questions like 'what did you mean by that' or "I did not fully understand that statement" or "why did you do that". Simple relational questions like these asked in a spirit of true seeking can quench a potential fire!

4. Lack of Clarity

We are taught about are words: James 3: 2 For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same [is] a perfect man, [and] able also to bridle the whole body. 3 Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. 4 Behold also the ships, which though [they be] so great, and [are] driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. 5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! 6 And the tongue [is] a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

Often we speak words that are not washed and are a stumbling block and cause for provocation. This is one major way the tongue needs to be tamed. On another level though, many times we simply "speak our minds" and are not real clear, concise, or bold about what we say and the very way we say things often causes confusion or doubt in the mind of the hearer. Without adding "understanding" or "qualification" we open wide the door for offense, especially when dealing with younger brothers and sisters in Christ. In addition, we say things which simply should not be said like a parent using words too big and complicated for a child to understand then getting mad that the child does not understand. Words or concepts that have not been submitted to the Father for his approval on release fit this description and instead of bringing life only bring confusion.

5. Lack of Vision

Individual goals within an organization are built upon the corporate goals and must be in the context of those goals. The Lord's kingdom is no different. Many times we simply choose to not come into right "relationship" with the body because we have lost our vision for the Lord's corporate goal or raising up a bride without spot or wrinkle. Because of that lack of vision we then choose to refuse to submit ourselves to the body (one another). Love covers a multitude of sins. This love is specifically directed towards the Lord. Our joy is to be tied up in His joy, what makes Him happy makes us happy. If we love Him we will then strive to see that His deepest desires are met, one in particular being the raising up of the bride. A regaining of our vision and purpose will place us back into right relationship with one another and thus back into a mode were we are building His house.

The bottom line for the body is that we really need to simply grow up and as we cultivate our relationship with the Lord and allow the fruit of the spirit to bond us together in the mortar of His love the offenses will cease to affect us and cause division. As we recognize the divisive plans of the enemy and choose to walk in love rather than give the enemy "place" we will see the Lord do a quick work in this last hour and the glorious bride raised up to full stature for the Lord's good pleasure. May the Lord bless you as you continue to press into His highest purposes.

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<http://landru.myhome.net/cmjhbur1/Resource1.html>

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