

Message Notes

"Getting your contractor license"

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction - *"Two opportunites"*

Previously on 1st Corinthians Planting, Watering, and Watching it Grow

A slam at their past (1 Cor. 3:1-2a)
A slam at their present! (1 Cor 3:2b-4)
Who are these rock stars anyway?
(1 Cor 3:5)
Putting everything in perspective
(1 Cor. 3:6-9a)

Getting your contractor license

Warning - Major Analogy coming and going!! (1 Corinthians 3:9)

The apostle Paul - the expert builder!
(1 Corinthians 3:10)

Romans 15:20-22

The importance of the right foundation!
(1 Corinthians 3:11)

Ephesians 2:20
1 Peter 2:4-8
Matthew 16:15-18

Those who build WILL get their work tested by God!
(1 Corinthians 3:12-15)

Application - *"How you gonna build?"*

1 Corinthians 3:9-15

⁹For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. ¹⁰By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. ¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹²If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. ¹⁴If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. ¹⁵If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

Romans 15:20-22

²⁰It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. ²¹Rather, as it is written:

"Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand." [Isaiah 52:15]

²²This is why I have often been hindered from coming to you.

Ephesians 2:20

¹⁹Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

1 Peter 2:4-8

⁴As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him—⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For in Scripture it says:

"See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." [Isaiah 28:16]

⁷Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

"The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone," [Psalm 118:22]

⁸and,

"A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." [Isaiah 8:14]

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.



SOUTH AFRICA

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PREVIOUSLY ON

**CHURCH IN CRISIS:
A STUDY OF FIRST
CORINTHIANS**



A slam at their past...

1 Corinthians 3:1-2a

¹Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly — mere infants in Christ. ²I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it.

Are you Regenerated?

Yes

No

Yes

Paul

Nicodemus / Saul

Born Again

Religious Person

Spiritual - "Christian"

Inoculated with Gospel

No

Corinthians

Woman at the Well
(John 4)

Tortured / Troubled /
Inconsistent

Happy Non-Christian

Think and live so?



A slam at their present!

1 Corinthians 3:2b-4

Indeed, you are still not ready. ³You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men? ⁴For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not mere men?



Jealousy – starts at an early age!



Quarreling – doesn't come much later...

Who are these rock stars anyway?

1 Corinthians 3:5

⁵What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe — as the Lord has assigned to each his task.

Putting everything in perspective

1 Corinthians 3:6-9a

⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.

⁷So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. ⁹For we are God's fellow workers...

Let me illustrate this:

Life Is Like a Birdbath

**It's round, made of concrete, filled with
water, and, uh, birds like to splash in it...**

(On second thought, maybe life isn't really like a birdbath afterall)

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1 Corinthians 3:9-15

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Warning – Major Analogy coming and going!!

1 Corinthians 3:9

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anal·o·gy \ə-'na-lə-jē\ n

- 1 - An inference that if two or more things agree with one another in some respects they will prob. agree in others**
- 2 - A resemblance in some particulars between things otherwise unlike : SIMILARITY**

~ Merriam-Webster, Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary., Eleventh ed.
(Springfield, Mass.: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).





The apostle Paul – the great architect

1 Corinthians 3:10

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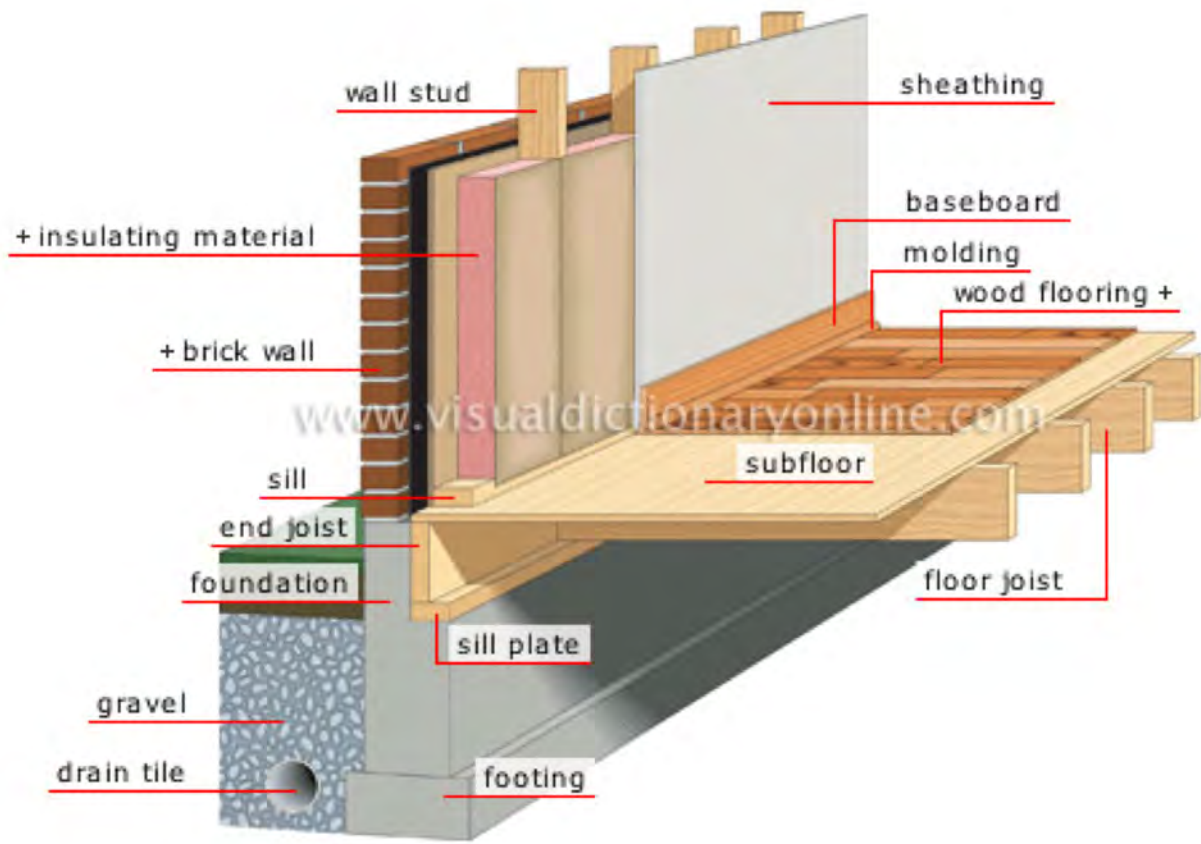
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1 Corinthians 3:11

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The importance of the right foundation

Matthew 16:15-18

¹⁵ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Those who build WILL get their work tested by God!

1 Corinthians 3:12-15

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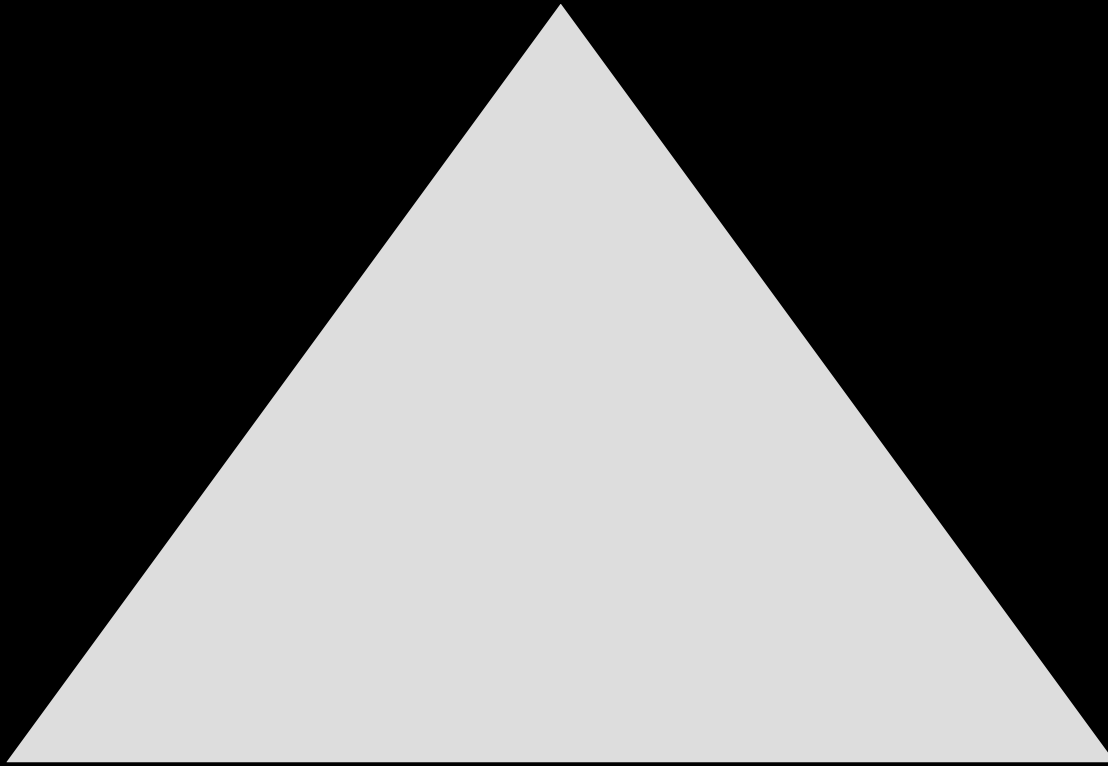






The Contractor Triangle

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The Contractor Triangle

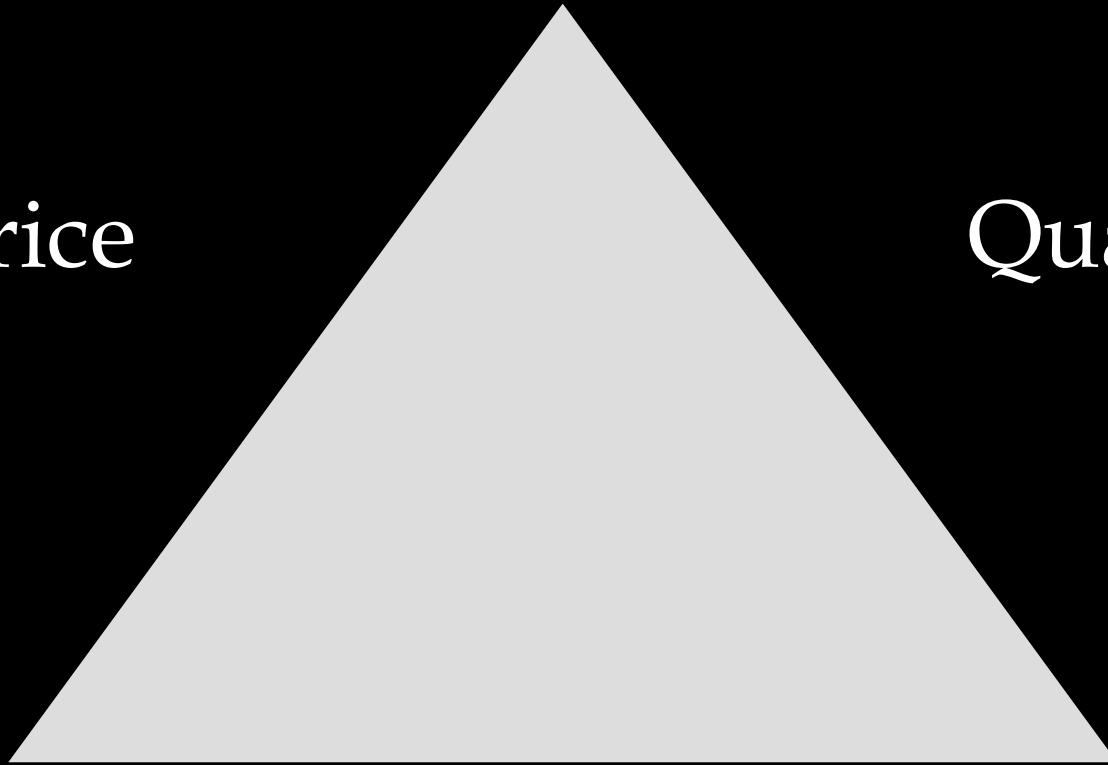
Price

A large white equilateral triangle is centered on a black background. The word "Price" is written in white serif font to the left of the triangle's left side.

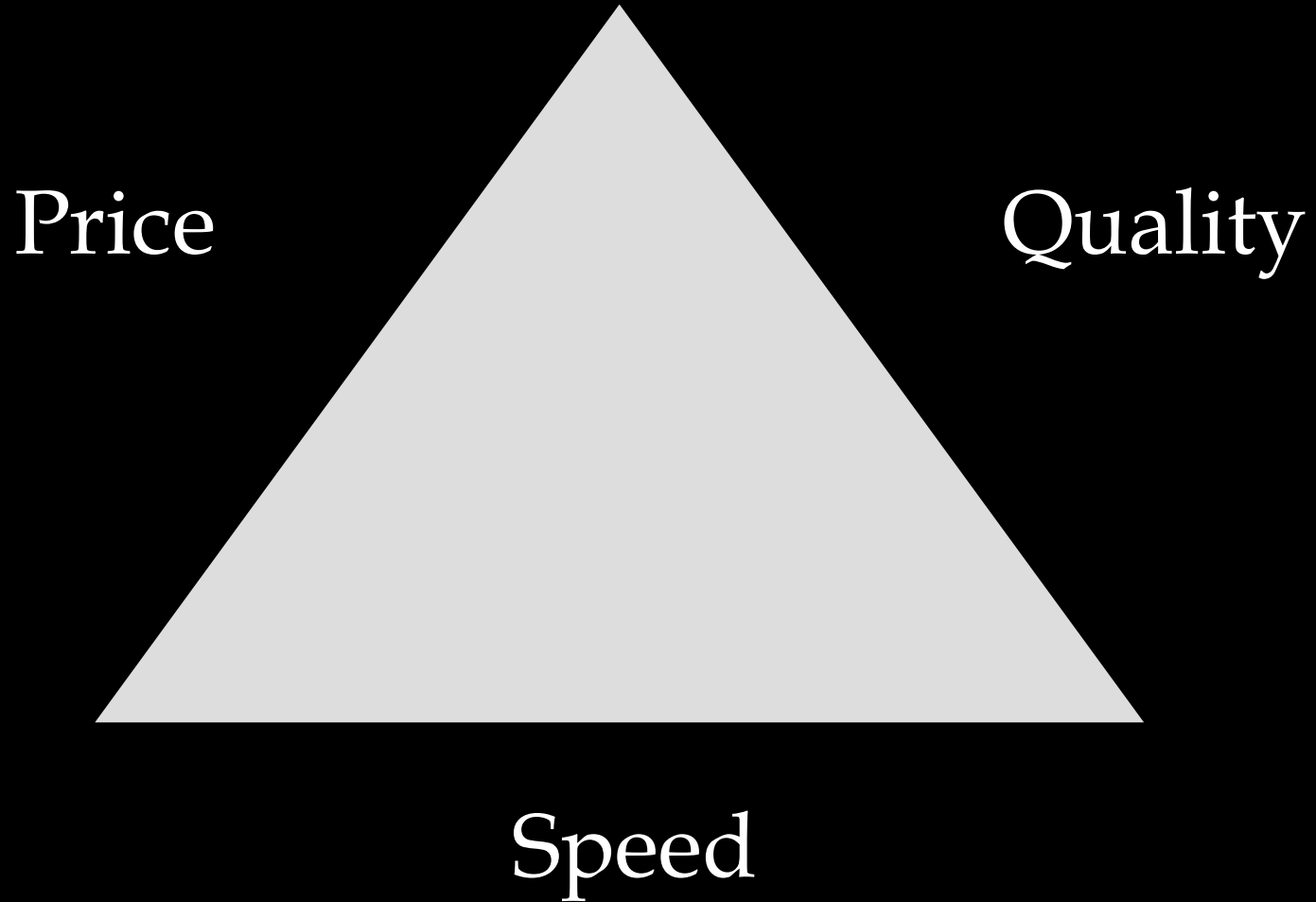
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Price

Quality



The Contractor Triangle



*Ways the church has given in to “quick fix”
and “cheap” ways of building:*

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1. Church “Growth” as the end

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3. Disregarding God’s design of the church

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*Those who build WILL get their work
tested by God!*

James 3:1

Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers,
because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

Application Questions

As you evaluate ministries, do you think of Jesus as the foundation, and whether this ministry is doing work that will last and is in accord with Scripture?

Will you build into other people's lives?

Will you build with skill, and not cheap and quick?