

****Vid bumper**

Welcome to Redemption Church and welcome to the year 2016. My name is Chris Fluitt and I am excited about our new sermon series.

Lego Church Title

You probably know what Legos are. You are probably fully aware of the small plastic interconnecting block. Lego is a huge, impossible to not notice, business. You may have seen a recent Lego movie, purchased a set for someone this Christmas, played a Lego video game, or had the experience of trying to create with Legos.

Legos are more than just blocks. Legos are way better than blocks. Both blocks and Legos can build, but the amount you can create with Legos is better.

Legos connect. Blocks stack.

Blocks can stack, but Legos do more than stack. Legos connect.

You want to build this year.

- Build your family.
- Build better health.
- Build better finances.
- Build our lives in character, morality, generosity...
- grow spiritually in Christ. Be built up in faith.

As a Church we want to build this year.

Every new-year we feel this drive to build. **We are built to build.**

The Bible says a thing or two about building.

1 Peter 2:5 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.(NIV)

The creator has design plans for you. To build you into something greater. YOU ARE HIS BUILDING MATERIAL!

Ephesians 4:11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,(NIV)

Ephesians 4:12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up(NIV)

The creator will place & has placed people in your life to help you build.

We need to connect

At my house we had a bucket of Legos. It was a growing collection of pieces.

When I wanted to build something I wouldn't just get one Lego out... No one plays with "Lego." We play with "LEGOS"

You can't build anything with one Lego. You need to be able to connect with others.

Now this is easy to understand when it comes to blocks.. but we do it all the time.

We have this dream to build our lives... start a business, go to school, change our life & habits, do something big with our gifts and abilities... But we don't tell others about it! We don't allow others to join with us in building. We don't have accountability because we have never opened our mouth and told someone what we are going to do... So that one little Lego just sits there...

Now you might say... "that's not me. I am constantly around people." But you surely agree that you can be around people but never connect.

Legos connect. Blocks stack.

Blocks can be surrounded by other blocks but never connect. The party game Jenga was built on this concept.

Blocks stack. They don't connect. They don't add strength or stability to what you are building... they just kind of are near each other.

People go to night clubs... surrounded by people... but feel all alone.

People have one stands. They are just stacking up for the night.

People at your work. You know their names and their favorite sports team, but are you connected and building together? Far too often someone from your work leaves to work somewhere else... and nothing really changes. They were just a Jenga block that someone slid out. Why? You never connected. You were just stacked near each other.

You can be in your home with your family. You are near but no one connects. Everyone is on their phone...

You wished someone happy birthday on social media but you didn't really connect..

You can come to church. You can stack right in church. Churches have tried to find ways to stack more and more people in a room. They look for the broadest appeal that won't offend anyone. They get a charismatic speaker and everyone stacks into the sanctuary...

It is always easier to stack than to connect...

Stacking does not build anything, but it can fool you into thinking you are building something.

You were built to build.

You were built to connect.

What do we mean by connect?

This is the secret of the Lego.

ACCEPTANCE

Part of this Lego intersects with this Lego. Now it doesn't just stack.. it interlocks. It bonds. It builds.

When you connect your strengths, your wisdom, your gifts, your personality, your story, your awkward humor, even your weaknesses.. are accepted by others. That is connection.

Likewise who they are is accepted by you and integrated into your life.. that is connection.

You need this kind of connection in your life in 2016. In Genesis it tells us that Adam was created for CONNECTION & COMMUNITY so God made Eve. THESE TWO BECAME ONE. They built 1 life together.

Here is what it looks like in the Church. In Acts 2 they went from 120 believers to 3000 believers in a day. The first Mega Church,

but they didn't just stack people. THEY CONNECTED! they are built together.

They connected with God. God accepted their strengths and weaknesses. The people accepted God's Spirit into their life. CONNECTION. The people received the message and repented and were baptized and God filled them with His power.

Connection builds something strong. You receive the gifts and abilities into what you are building. You receive acceptance. You receive love. And everything you have received you also get to give.

When we connect... what you are trying to build is strengthened and what I am trying to build is strengthened.

You need this kind of connection this year.

The 3000 that were saved in Acts 2 didn't just connect with God. They connected with each other.

Acts 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.(NIV)

Acts 2:43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.(NIV)

Acts 2:44 All the believers were together and had everything in common.(NIV)

They connected with their surrounding community. In Acts 6 they are taking a stand against racism and feeding hungry disenfranchised members of society.

This is a powerful picture of the Church. It is a powerful picture of Connection

In a world of blockheads, you are called to be a Lego.

God uses people to build. He wants to use you.

What you need to know is “THE FUTURE YOU WANT TO BUILD REQUIRES CONNECTION”

Here is what I want you to do..

You need to look at your life and be honest... ARE YOU BUILDING THE LIFE YOU REALLY WANT?

Are you stacking or are you connecting?