

SIX BUILDINGS, ONE CHURCH

3/21/10

1 Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house

A church is not a building. A church is people.

University Bible Church was founded in 1989, but our roots go back 50 years to 1960.

In 1960 a Bible Study was started in the old YMCA building in downtown Pocatello.



Rod and Helen McLeod and Paul and Laura Lee Gibby were a part of those early beginnings.



A short time later Pocatello Bible Church was formed and they purchased a building on the corner of North Arthur and West Custer

A few years later Paul Gibby built a larger chapel onto the original building.



Bing Yowell and Grant Terrell were a part of the youth group way back then.



In June of 1976 Diane, Lori and I moved to town so that I could pastor Pocatello Bible Church.



The church grew.



The Ganstroms and others also joined us.

In 1977 we went to two morning services.

In 1978 we helped found the Inkom Community Bible Church

In 1979 Pocatello Bible Church purchased a former Mormon Ward building on the corner of 10th and East Sublette.



Bret, Kelly, Lisa
and Melissa Beck



Jim, Alice, Kyle, Danielle
and Thomas Bollinger



Over the next few years we grew to two services again and decided to start an extension ministry on the ISU campus.

In 1989 we bought our current campus facilities and founded University Bible Church.

I came over to pastor the new work.



We grew to two, then three services in our campus chapel.



In 1999 we began renting the ISU film theater for our Sunday morning worship services.

This is the only church many of you have ever attended here.



Next week we will begin services in our 6th building.



We are keeping our chapel on campus so that we can continue our college ministries here at ISU.

Though we have worshiped in six buildings we are the same people.

We have:

The same commitment to the scriptures

The same vision to reach both our community and the ISU campus for Christ

The same desire to provide a Biblical worldview in an environment of conflicting theories and alternative lifestyles

The same commitment to equip our members for lives of service for Christ, regardless of their chosen professions.

The same commitment to develop godly men and women who raise up godly children.

The same desire to develop Christian leaders for the next generation.

Six buildings, One church, the same vision.

1. The Church Is Not A Building, The Church Is The People.

The church is comprised of individual Christians who have trusted Christ alone for their salvation and joined together to worship and serve Him.

Our church is the people who make up our congregation, not the building we meet in.

a. We are “living stones” that make up Christ’s church.

1 Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 Do you not know that you are a temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? ¹⁷ . . . for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.

2 Corinthians 6:16 . . . For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.

Matthew 16:18 ". . . I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it

b. Jesus is the foundational cornerstone of His church.

Ephesians 2:19-22 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, *Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone*, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom *you also are being built together into a dwelling of God* in the Spirit.

2. The Church Is Christ's Body On Earth. Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:15-16

Ephesians 1:22-23

Christ is the head of the church.

He has authority over his people and determines their direction and destiny.

Ephesians 4:15-16

Each member of Christ's body serves an important and distinct role.

3. The Church Is Christ's Bride.

2 Corinthians 11:2 . . . I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you *as* a pure virgin.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her

4. The Church Is God's *Family*.

God has adopted us into his family.

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become *children of God*, even to those who believe in His name,

1 John 3:1-2 See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called *children of God*; and *such* we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. ² Beloved, now we are *children of God*, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

We were rebellious and worthy of God's wrath, but through Christ we have become children of God.

We have been made fellow heirs with Christ.

Romans 8:17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ,

Full beneficiaries of all God's promises to his children!

As Christians we are bound in a family relationship as brothers and sisters

Romans 12:10 *Be* devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

1 Peter 1:22 . . . fervently love one another from the heart

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. . .

A newcomer commented to me about that this week.

We are to love one another regardless of differences in culture, race, income, personality, and nationality

These become irrelevant when God adopts his people into his family.

A 1960's Klu Klux Klan killer is now the pastor of an interracial church in the south.

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

To love Christ means to love his church.

Church involvement is not optional.

It is the essential context where people are intended to find Christ and grow in him.

5. Christ Gave His Life To Create His Church .

Acts 20:28 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd *the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*

1 Peter 2:9-10 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God's* OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.