

WHO BUILDS, AND WHO CONSTITUTES THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD? Part 1

Hello again, my brothers and sisters. Welcome back to the COGPOD. I'm your host, brother Ed. In the history of mankind, from the garden of Eden forward, there have been many powerful families that have had profound effects on the lives of mankind. Many of these families came to be known as the Great Houses, usually named for the single outstanding individual member, that accomplished deeds, that put that family in a position of strength, power, wealth, and recognition. Yet all of the most powerful houses in all the nations in all the earth, in all of Earth's history combined, are summed up this way scripturally at Isa 40:15&17; **15**No, for all the nations of the world are but a drop in the bucket. They are nothing more than dust on the scales. He picks up the whole earth as though it were a grain of sand. [NLT]17; **17**The nations of the world are worth nothing to him. In his eyes they count for less than nothing—mere emptiness and froth. [NLT]. Who is it, that has such contemptible disregard for those houses considered powerful in the eyes of men? Who is the 'He' cited in vss15&17 of Isa 40? Ps 83:18 thunders; **18**That *men* may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth. [ASV] Hosea 12:5 shouts; **5**even Jehovah, the God of hosts; Jehovah is his memorial name. [ASV] Yes, the greatest houses and households in the entire history of mankind, which includes Gods, Kings, Emperors, Caesars, Chiefs, Presidents, etc., all combined, are considered as nothing to Jehovah, or Yahweh the Almighty!! When it comes to His house and His household, all of mankind's houses and households are truly insignificant.

Becoming part of Almighty God Jehovah's household, or not, has eternal implications as Joshua 24:15-24 points out. It reads; **15**And if it seem evil unto you to serve Jehovah, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve Jehovah. **16**And the people answered and said, Far be it from us that we should forsake Jehovah, to serve other gods; **17**for Jehovah our God, he it is that brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and that did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way wherein we went, and among all the peoples through the midst of whom we passed; **18**and Jehovah drove out from before us all the peoples, even the Amorites that dwelt in the land: therefore we also will serve Jehovah; for he is our God. **19**And Joshua said unto the people, Ye cannot serve Jehovah; for he is a holy God; he is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgression nor your sins. **20**If ye forsake Jehovah, and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you evil, and consume you, after that he hath done you good. **21**And the people said unto Joshua, Nay; but we will serve Jehovah. **22**And Joshua said unto the people, Ye are witnesses against yourselves that ye have chosen you Jehovah, to serve him. And they said, We are witnesses. **23**Now therefore put away, 'said he, the foreign gods which are among you, and incline your heart unto Jehovah, the God of Israel. **24**And the people said unto Joshua, Jehovah our God will we serve, and unto his voice will we hearken. [ASV]

3000+ years later, nothing has changed. We have a choice to become members of God's household or not. When it comes to the household of God, in this podcast, we will explore the following questions: 1] Who is the source and builder of God's house and household? 2] Who makes up God's household? 3] How is Jesus the chief cornerstone in the building of Jehovah God's household? 4] How do we individually serve as priests in God's household, and 5] what are our roles

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and responsibilities therein? Are you ready for this journey through the scriptures to find the answers? Ok, buckle up, cause here we go!!!!

First off; Who is the source and builder of God's house and household, and what are its requirements? Let's allow the word of God speak to His Children. Let's first consider Heb 3:1-6 where it says; **1**Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession. **2**He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was in all God's household. **3**For Jesus is considered worthy of more glory than Moses, just as the builder has more honor than the house. **4**Now every house is built by someone, but the one who built everything is God. **5**Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's household, as a testimony to what would be said in the future. **6**But Christ was faithful as a Son over his household. And we are that household if we hold on to our confidence and the hope in which we boast. [CSB] In this scripture, first outlined is a requirement for members of the household by Jehovah God found first at Lev 19:1,2; **1**Then Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying: **2**"Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, 'You shall be holy, for I, Yahweh your God, am holy. and again at Lev 20:26 which states; **26**You are to be holy to Me because I, Yahweh, am holy, and I have set you apart from the nations to be Mine. LSB] Our brother Peter repeated the requirement at 1Pet 1:15,16; **15**Always live as God's holy people should, because God is the one who chose you, and he is holy. **16** That's why the Scriptures say, "I am the holy God, and you must be holy too." [CEV] So we see that Jehovah, the Holy God, is the builder of the house, an invitation to become members of His household comes from Heaven in the person of His son Jesus who is over God's household, Jehovah chooses the members of His household, and all members of His household must be holy. In addition, there are a number of unusual aspects regarding God's house and household as brought to our attention at Eph 2:19-22; **19**So, then, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints, and members of God's household, **20**built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. **21**In him the whole building, being put together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. **22**In him you are also being built together for God's dwelling in the Spirit. [CSB] The foundation of the house are the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus as the foundation cornerstone. Jehovah then takes the members of the household and places the individual members with their God-given gifts and talents, like living stones, and builds them into a house for Him to inhabit by spirit as spelled out at 1Pet 2:4,5; **4**You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor. **5**And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests. [NLT] No one in all creation other than our Great God Jehovah, could ever build a living house for habitation. No one!!! Our brother Peter goes on and builds on that thought in 1 Pet 2:9-12 when he says; **9**But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. **10**"Once you had no identity as a people; now you are God's people. Once you received no mercy; now you have received God's mercy." **11**Dear friends, I warn you as "temporary residents and foreigners" to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. **12**Be careful to live properly among your unbelieving neighbors. Then even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will give honor to God when he judges the world. [NLT] This holy nation of priests was first spoken of by Jehovah at Ex 19:5,6 where it states; **5**Now therefore, if you will in fact obey My voice and keep My covenant (agreement), then you shall be My own special possession and treasure from among all peoples

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[of the world], for all the earth is Mine; **6**and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation [set apart for My purpose].’ These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.” [AMP] In what sense though, do ALL members of the household become priests? Peter, under inspiration, identifies the *Christian congregation* as ‘royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession’, mirroring Ex 19:6. Now how does this tie in with Rom 12:1 which says; **1**And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. [NLT] A question. Who, in the scriptures are authorized to offer up sacrifices? Is it not the priests? Another question. Who is the only one that can offer YOUR BODY as a living sacrifice to God? Can your father or mother? Your sister or brother? Your son or daughter? Husband or wife? In offering YOUR BODY as a living sacrifice, the only one that can do that is YOU. And in so doing, are you not acting in the capacity of a priest offering up your body, unconditionally, as a sacrifice to our God Yahweh? Just as there were different types of sacrifices offered under the law, the priests of God’s household also offer different sacrifices. Two such sacrifices are named at Heb 13:15,16; **15**Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. **16**And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. So we see that all Christians must continually offer sacrifices to our God and Father. Namely, according to scripture, ‘the fruit of lips that openly profess His name’. The true children of God ‘openly profess their father’s name, Jehovah, and do not forget to do good, and to share with others. We also know that the doing of good to others requires sacrifice. But the doing of good to whom? Gal 6:10 gives us an answer; **10**So then, as we have occasion, we should work good toward all, and especially toward those of the household of the faith.[BLB] So we see, that as members of God’s household, we must work what is good toward all, but especially toward those of the household of the faith’. So, in part 1 of this podcast, we have seen 1] Who builds the house/household. That would be Jehovah 2] Who is the chief cornerstone of the house. That would be Jesus. 3] Who make up the living stones of the house. That would be those chosen by a heavenly calling 4] How all those making up God’s household are also priests. That would be by offering the bodies unconditionally as a living sacrifice to Jehovah and 5] Some of the sacrifices the living stones must make, which include the fruit of lips and the doing of good to others.

In part 2, we will discuss additional sacrifices that members of the household offer up to please our heavenly Father Jehovah and the head of His household, Jesus. We will also consider some of the assignments given to members of His household. This is brother Ed saying so long for now and I hope to see you soon in part 2. It’s gonna be goooood!!!!

PART 2

Welcome back my brothers and sisters to the cogpod. This is your host brother Ed. In part 1 of ‘Who builds, and who constructs the household of God’, we scripturally established: 1] Who the builder of the house is. 2] Who the chief cornerstone of the house is. 3] Who makes up the living stones in the house. 4] How those making up God’s household serve as priests and 5] Some of the sacrifices that members of the household, [who make up a living temple in which Jehovah dwells] must make, in order for our sacrifices to be acceptable to our God and Father. In part 2 we will consider 1] some additional sacrifices that those of the household must make. 2] How we as members of the household work out our individual salvation. 3] Some of the roles assigned to

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members of the household in addition to being priests. Are you ready for the journey? Good!!! Let's begin!!!

First, we'll start with some additional individual sacrifices that members of the household must make that lead to our salvation.

One of the sacrifices, that we as priests offer, involves our conduct as brought out at 1Tim 3:15; **15**But if I delay, this letter will let you know how we should conduct ourselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth. [GNT] Our individual Christian conduct in God's household serves the important function of forming a pillar and support of the truth. How reminiscent this is of the words of our Lord Jesus at Mt 5:16 where He stated; **16**In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. [BSB] Our individual and personal deeds of conduct will cause honest hearted people to glorify our Father in heaven, Jehovah.

Then there's the need to sacrifice our sinful tendencies, and the need to be forgiving toward one another, which also calls for sacrifice, as brought out at Col 3:12-17 which says from the Amplified Bible; **12**So, as God's own chosen people, who are holy [set apart, sanctified for His purpose] and well-beloved [by God Himself], put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience [which has the power to endure whatever injustice or unpleasantness comes, with good temper]; **13**bearing graciously with one another, and willingly forgiving each other if one has a cause for complaint against another; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so should you forgive. **14**Beyond all these things put on and wrap yourselves in [unselfish] love, which is the perfect bond of unity [for everything is bound together in agreement when each one seeks the best for others]. **15**Let the peace of Christ [the inner calm of one who walks daily with Him] be the controlling factor in your hearts [deciding and settling questions that arise]. To this peace indeed you were called as members in one body [of believers]. And be thankful [to God always]. **16**Let the [spoken] word of Christ have its home within you [dwelling in your heart and mind—permeating every aspect of your being] as you teach [spiritual things] and admonish and train one another with all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. **17**Whatever you do [no matter what it is] in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus [and in dependence on Him], giving thanks to God the Father through Him. [AMP] So you see my brothers and sisters, we must kill our sinful actions, attitudes and thought processes, or they will kill us. This is a fight that takes place in each one of us as individuals, and at its conclusion, one of us is going to die for all eternity. Either we as an individual, or our personal sinful actions, attitudes and tendencies must die. This fight, is indeed, a fight to the death. Now, we have help in this fight by the sacrifices that have been graciously made in mankind's behalf.

I want you to note at Heb 10:19-25 some of the sacrifices that have been made, and the sacrifices we need to make for each other's encouragement; **19**Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have boldness to enter the sanctuary through the blood of Jesus — **20**he has inaugurated for us a new and living way through the curtain (that is, through his flesh) — **21**and since we have a great high priest over the house of God, **22**let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure

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water. **23**Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, since he who promised is faithful. **24**And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, **25**not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching. Jesus sacrificed His life, which provided the foundation for us as individuals to win the fight against sin, death, and the Devil. Please, brothers and sisters remember, as members of God's household, we have to work out our personal salvation, as we are admonished at Php 2:12 where it states; **12**Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence, but now even more in my absence, continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling. Why? Let's direct our attention to 1Pet 4:17 which says; **17**For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God. If it begins first with us, what will happen to those who don't obey the Good News of God? [WEB]

For thousands of years, it has long been the desire of Jehovah our God, for those of His household living in Satan's world to aspire to deeds of Godly devotion by adhering to His words found at Isa 59:6,7 where He states; **6**[Rather] is this not the fast which I choose, To undo the bonds of wickedness, To tear to pieces the ropes of the yoke, To let the oppressed go free And break apart every [enslaving] yoke? **7**"Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry And bring the homeless poor into the house; When you see the naked, that you cover him, And not to hide yourself from [the needs of] your own flesh and blood?[AMP] That is still a mandate binding on those of the Christian household as noted at Jas 2:15,16 which says;? **15**Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, **16**and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? [NLT] And also 1Jo 3:17,18; **17**If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person? **18**Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. **19**Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God. [NLT]

In addition to our roles as priests in God's household, there are additional roles that some will be assigned by Jesus as indicated at Eph 4:11-13; **11**And it was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, **12**to equip the saints for works of ministry and to build up the body of Christ, **13**until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, as we mature to the full measure of the stature of Christ. Now is not the time to go into all the roles, but as to overseers and teachers, notice what God's word says regarding them, starting at 1Tim 3:1-7; **1**This is a trustworthy saying: If anyone aspires to be an overseer, he desires a noble task. **2**An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, **3**not dependent on wine, not violent but gentle, peaceable, and free of the love of money. **4**An overseer must manage his own household well and keep his children under control, with complete dignity. **5**For if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how can he care for the church of God? **6**He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same condemnation as the devil. **7**Furthermore, he must have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the snare of the devil. If and individual does not meet these scriptural guidelines, He should not be serving as an overseer of God's household

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no matter his talents or abilities. When it comes to teachers in God's household, our brother James wrote at Jas 3:1; **1Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.** The actions and attitudes of overseers and teachers must reflect what our brother Peter penned at 1Pet 5:2,3; **2Be shepherds of God's flock that is among you, watching over them not out of compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not out of greed, but out of eagerness; 3not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. 4And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.** And what is our attitude toward overseers appointed by the Holy Spirit to be? Notice Heb 13:7&17; **7Remember your leaders [for it was they] who brought you the word of God; and consider the result of their conduct [the outcome of their godly lives], and imitate their faith [their conviction that God exists and is the Creator and Ruler of all things, the Provider of eternal salvation through Christ, and imitate their reliance on God with absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness]. 17; 17Obey your [spiritual] leaders and submit to them [recognizing their authority over you], for they are keeping watch over your souls and continually guarding your spiritual welfare as those who will give an account [of their stewardship of you]. Let them do this with joy and not with grief and groans, for this would be of no benefit to you. [AMP] Those designated as teachers and shepherds in God's household MUST abide by the rule found at 1Cor 4:6 which says; Now, brothers and sisters, I have applied these things to myself and Apollos for your benefit, so that you may learn from us the meaning of the saying, "Do not go beyond what is written." Then you will not be puffed up in being a follower of one of us over against the other. A wise and faithful shepherd and teacher will NEVER go beyond the things written in the word of God in teaching and directing God's congregation through Jesus.**

Being a member of God's household is a privilege that cannot be expressed in words. However, along with the privilege comes responsibilities. As members of His household let's rejoice in the privilege and heartily embrace our God assigned responsibilities. 1 Cor 12: 1-31 highlights additional roles of those in God's household in this way; **1Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. 2You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. 3Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. 4There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. 7Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. 12Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. 15Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not**

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belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. **16**And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. **17**If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? **18**But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. **19**If they were all one part, where would the body be? **20**As it is, there are many parts, but one body. **21**The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" **22**On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, **23**and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, **24**while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, **25**so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. **26**If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. **27**Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. **28**And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. **29**Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? **30**Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? **31**Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. And yet I will show you the most excellent way. **[NIV]** So then, each member of the household has their unique gift of the Holy Spirit to be used for its intended purpose, the building up of the body of Christ as pointed out at Eph 4:11-13 which we will reread for emphasis; **11**So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, **12**to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up **13**until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.**[NIV]**

So then, in recap: 1] Who is the source and builder of God's Household? None other than Jehovah God Himself. 2] How is Jesus the chief cornerstone in the building of Jehovah God's household? Jehovah has given Jesus all authority in heaven and on Earth. He is the foundation cornerstone on which Jehovah builds His temple by means of living stones into a place for Him to reside among mankind. 3] How do we serve in the capacity of priests in God's household? By each individual offering our bodies as living sacrifices, unconditionally, to do the will of God. 4] What are some of the other roles and responsibilities therein? The Bible says some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers and there are other roles to be filled by Jehovah through Jesus and the Holy Spirit as evidenced in 1 Cor 12. In our next podcast, #8, we are going to show scripturally, that Jesus is one of your blood relatives!!! Surprised!!! It's gonna be goooood!!!! This is brother Ed saying so long for now, and I hope that you will join us for podcast #8.