

Ephesians 2:19–22 *Now therefore ye [Christians] are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone**; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto [all believers are assembled together into a Church, you become] an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God [for a home where God can live] through the Spirit.*

I. Introduction: Developing a Biblical World-view

“The decline of Christian identity is particularly pronounced among younger Americans, and fully one-third of those age thirty-five and younger report no religious affiliation.”— Robert Mohler

God's View	Secular (World's) View
Glorify God	Glorify Self
Holiness	Happiness
Absolute Truth	Relativism
Emotion is a by-product	Emotion is foundational
Personal sin	Others' fault
God is Supreme, and All	Man's reasoning is supreme
People need forgiveness	("Post-Modernism")
Repentance	Tolerance

Comparing Spiritual and Carnal World-Views

- A. The world's system results in confusion as each person or group promotes their own cause. A good example of this is the political systems, which seek to tear down opposing viewpoints until only theirs left, even if it doesn't make sense.
- B. A "world view" is a set of beliefs, unique to each individual, that we adopt by faith. For example, a Christian accepts the Bible teaching that life began when the all-knowing God created the universe with everything we need to sustain life (food, air, water, materials for clothing and shelter, a mind that can understand and plan, and the wonders we cannot explain which point to the Creator). An unbeliever may adopt some evolutionary world view believing that life spontaneously came from non-living materials through natural processes which were at work in the correct environment. These living things mutated and became other living things, and human beings are just the best adapted to thrive in the current environment...so far.

- C. A “cornerstone” is the first piece of any structure, and it must be located so that everything else fits in the space for the structure. If the cornerstone isn’t located correctly, everything measured from its location will also be in the wrong place. Conversely, if the cornerstone is located correctly, everything will fit together and remain solid. For a “world view”, if your foundational beliefs, like the cornerstone, are in the Truth, you can have confidence that every decision and action made from those beliefs will be right.
- D. Topics that the Bible addresses that will be discussed in the “Avoiding Confusion” series:
 1. Political Confusion: How should I cast my votes for the various candidates and issues on my ballot?
 2. Public Health Policy Confusion: Who is really doing the best job of controlling public health decision, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic?
 3. Gender Confusion: Am I who I am supposed to be, or do I have a genetic defect such that I am a man trapped in a woman’s body (or vice-versa)?
 4. Origin-of Life Confusion: Is God the only possible solution to where life began, or is life on this planet just a cosmic accident, the fortunate result of so many ongoing natural processes?
 5. Beginning of Life Confusion: When does a new life begin from previously-existing life? At what point in the reproductive process does a life distinct from its parents begin?
 6. Theistic Confusion: Does God exist? Is there only one God? Is God involved in the world I live in, or is He too far away? Does God care about me individually? Can I know what this God is like? How can I be sure about all these questions?

II. The Reliability of the Cornerstone

Cornerstones are carefully selected, accurately cut, and precisely placed in order to build a structure. All measurements are taken from the cornerstone. The more elaborate the structure, the more costly the cornerstone. It would be part of the identity of the building.

1 Kings 5:17 *And the king [Solomon] commanded, and they brought great [large] stones, costly stones, and hewed [cut] stones, **to lay the foundation of the house** [the Temple in Jerusalem].*

A. For Identity

1 Corinthians 3:9 *For we are laborers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry [plowed and planted field], **ye are God’s building.***

1. The church is a building constructed of people, each one fit together with other believers to do the work of God in our local area.
2. Jesus Christ must be the Cornerstone of every church, the one Person that church cannot exist without, the standard by which everything done in the church is measured.

B. For Unity

1. We Are Framed Together: People are the stones of the spiritual house, the church, that must be fit together, each carrying the load placed upon

him/her, and each in the correct relationship to each other and to the cornerstone.

Ephesians 4:15–16 *But speaking the truth in love, [Christians] may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: ¹⁶From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth [and fastened by the strength of each joint], according to the effectual working in the measure of every part [works effectively as each part does its share], maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself [helps the body grow and strengthen itself] in love.*

2. As Bricks and mortar are precisely placed around the cornerstone of a building, so our lives must be permanently bonded to Jesus Christ through salvation and kept in a precise relationship to Him.

1 Peter 2:4–6 *To whom coming, [You came to Christ] as unto a living stone, disallowed [rejected] indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, ⁵Ye also, as lively [living] stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. ⁶Wherefore also it is contained [written] in the scripture, “Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded [put to shame]”.*

3. We Are a Spiritual House, a single body, each stone offering the sacrifices of praise, thanksgiving, prayers, adoration, etc.

1 Peter 2:5 *Ye also, as lively [living] stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*

C. For Direction

The church is not for the use of its members, it is for the use of the Lord Jesus Christ to use as He sees fit. We are not to try to control or manipulate it outside of His revealed will.

Quote – “The Church of God apart from the Person of Christ is a useless structure.”

III. The Revelation of the Cornerstone

A. The Identity of the Foundation: The Bible, God’s revealed Truth

“The doctrines which they taught are the basis on which the church rests.”—Barnes

Acts 2:42 *And they [new believers] continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

Matthew 16:18 *And I [Jesus] say also unto thee, that thou art Peter [small stone], and upon this rock [huge boulder] I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against [overcome, conquer] it.*

1. The rock (large boulder) is the Truth that Jesus Christ is the Son of the Living God, see Matthew 16:16. He is our Cornerstone.
2. The small stone is Peter, whose name means ‘small stone’ and who had just declared that Truth. Small stones are not used as cornerstones.

B. The Identity of the Cornerstone

1. The prophecy of the cornerstone: that He would be rejected.

Psalm 118:21–22 *I will praise thee [God]: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation.*

²²***The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.***

2. The prophecy that the cornerstone would be precious, worthy of adoration, something to build upon:

Isaiah 28:16 *Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, **Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste** [shall never be shaken].*

3. Jesus Himself said that these prophecies were spoken about Him. Matthew 21:42 *Jesus saith unto them [the chief priests and Pharisees], “**Did ye never read in the scriptures, ‘The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?’**”*

IV. The Rejection of the Cornerstone

A. Rejected in History

As people rejected the message of Noah in his day, to their own destruction, so people have rejected the message of salvation through Jesus Christ since the first sermon (by the Apostle Peter) on the Day of Pentecost.

Acts 4:10–12 *Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man [who could not walk since he was born] stand here before you whole [healed]. ¹¹**This is the stone which was set at nought of** [was rejected by] **you builders, which is become the head of the corner.** ¹²*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**

B. Rejected in Our Day

“Many people consider it arrogant, narrow-minded, and bigoted for Christians to contend that the only path to God must go through Jesus of Nazareth. In a day of religious pluralism and tolerance, this exclusivity claim is politically incorrect, a verbal slap in the face of other belief systems.”—Lee Strobel, *The Case for Faith*

1. The **fruit problem** is what we see in news reports, but the **root problem** is the rejection of God’s plan for each person’s life through salvation.
2. People today will gather together and celebrate that they are NOT Christian. (The word for this is ecumenicalism.) Deuteronomy 32:31 *For their rock [their idols] is not as our Rock, even our enemies themselves being judges [our enemies admit their gods are different from our God]. For their vine is of the vine of Sodom, and of the fields of Gomorrah: their grapes are grapes of gall [poison], their clusters are bitter:*
3. Jesus is precious to those who are saved. 1 Peter 2:7 *Unto **you** therefore which **believe he is precious**: but unto them which be disobedient [but to unbelievers], **the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,***

4. Our lives will align with Christ as we place our faith in Him
Romans 9:33 *As it is written, Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling-stone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.*
Romans 1:16 *For I [Paul] am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek [non-Jew].*

V. Conclusion

What is our world-view based on? If it is measured from the cornerstone of Jesus Christ, it will stand in the day of trouble. If it is founded in the Word of God, it will not fail when the storm comes.

Matthew 7:24–27 *Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine [Jesus], and doeth them, I will liken [compare] him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: ²⁵And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for **it was founded upon a rock**. ²⁶And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened [compared] unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: ²⁷And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*