

Master Building Plan

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Recently, my wife and I drove by the church in which we got married over twenty-five years ago. I remembered the building as a beautiful red brick structure with white columns on the front porch. It had red brick steps that stretched across the entire front of the building and had ample parking in the front. To the right of the main Sanctuary was the fellowship hall and the classrooms were to the rear of the building. On the left of the Sanctuary were the church offices.

When we drove by, the appearance from the highway was quite different. You could no longer see the front of the building and the steeple was now hid from view. Instead, all you could see was a large steel building.

Several years ago, the church had added a gymnasium and recreation building to the rear of the main building, but this new edifice in the front was something I had never before seen. It appears to me that it had been erected without any regard as to how it would make the church appear to passers by.

I think that if the church had adopted a master building plan several years ago, they could have added all of the room they needed, but without detracting from the general aesthetics of the entire church complex. By all appearance, the church never had such a plan.

It's important to have a master plan. It takes into consideration where we are right now, but with a long-term view as to what we want to be in the future and how we are going to get there. It develops contingencies for what we are going to do at given milestones. In other words, when we reach a certain size, we are going to go to two services. At this point, we will begin construction on a new facility that will blend with the look and style of the existing structure. Later, when we have achieved other goals, we would add an additional portion in such a manner that it also compliments the pre-existing buildings.

In order to have a master plan such as this, we have to be able to make long-term goals and have a vision as to what something is intended to look like at the end. In the Christian life, God has given us the long-term goal that we are to work toward. He has told us that our goal is to be Christ-like. If we know that this is the long-term plan, we must then develop a plan to accomplish it. God has given us the instruction we need in order to accomplish this. It is the Bible.

Just as the engineer works with the architect to make sure he understands what is to be done, we must spend time with God to ensure we are developing ourselves in accordance with His plan. The Bible contains the vision for what God wants us to work toward, as well as a plan to achieve it. We must spend time studying the Scripture so that we have a clear understanding of what we are to look like in the end. We don't want our lives to look disorganized and erratic. If we will follow God's plan, we will show a steady progression and ordered development. In the end, we will be happy to show that we have followed the Master's Plan.

Semper Fi in the Lord and I hope to see you in church on Sunday.