

# imagining

*our humanity*



HOW WE SEE  
US AS HUMANS  
MATTERS

NEXUS CHURCH

## Foreman Vs Framers

A lot of new construction is happening around here.

People are buying new construction homes all around us.

New construction requires a ton of logistics, permitting and planning.

You have many characters in the story of a new build.

You have the land developer, the real-estate agents, the material supply chain, and so many more .

In today's lesson, we are going to look at two critical pieces of every building.

The Foreman and The Framers.

The Construction Foreman and the Stud Framer are two different roles.

These two unique jobs require two unique sets of skills.

Beyond the work that gets done with their hands, each of these roles has a unique responsibility with their heads.

They are building the same house, but they are not always thinking the same way.

Every staff member, pastor, volunteer, coach, team leader, we are all building the same house, but we all have a very different mindset.

A Framer has a small view of the home.

A task oriented mindset.

They follow a checklist and their goal is to accomplish their tasks.

A foreman has a holistic view of the entire construction process.

# imagining *the Kingdom person*



When we imagine the kingdom, we imagine the person. Think for a second through the eyes of a Samuel...

Samuel literally had to imagine a King to rule a kingdom, and he had the difficult assignment to hear from God and select that person.

A King is a person that cares for a kingdom. A King is a person that creates kingdom culture through orders. And remember God didn't want Israel to have a king.

Let's rewind the tape for a second though....

In chapter two, God rejected Eli as judge, but in chapter eight, Israel rejected Samuel as judge.

Israel had reason to be concerned over Samuel as judge because of his appointment of his rebellious sons as leaders in Israel.

The elders of Israel came to Samuel at his home in Ramah and said, "Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations" (1 Samuel 8:4-5). They did not consider the role of judge, which God had given Israel, to be enough for them.

Israel's request for a king displeased Samuel (literally, it was "evil in the eyes of Samuel"), and he prayed to Yahweh (1 Samuel 8:6).

Yahweh instructed Samuel to obey the people, “for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them” (1 Samuel 8:7). God’s words reveal that the primary problem was Israel, not Samuel.

So now after Saul...who ended up being a poor King, He's go to choose a new king...

1 Samuel 16: 1: The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve for Saul, when I have rejected him as king over Israel?”

So Samuel notices the oldest son, Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is before Him.”

Nah. It ain't him....

1 Samuel 16:7 (AMP)

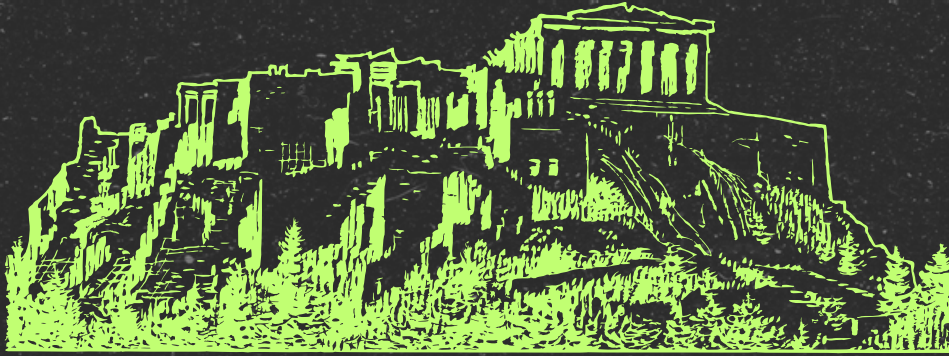
But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

Kingdom people pay attention. In fact, Great leaders pay attention. Poor leaders seek attention.

What something looks like initially is rarely what it looks ultimately. So, stay with it.



# imagining *the Kingdom city*



Kingdom people love the earthly city and the kingdom city.

Kingdom people are leaders. They understand that stepping toward the unknown, not the understood.

If you're going to learn to love, you're going to need to step into the unknown....I am asking everyone in this circle today to take a risk, and make a change to reach out to someone they do not know.

It's often awkward and uncomfortable. But that's what love does.

People who love, I mean truly lovers. They are the people who know the most about God and the theologians must listen to them...

Love often can start small but it grows. In the words of the theologian, Winnie the Pooh, sometimes the smallest things take up the most room in your heart.

Kingdom people understand this. They understand according to Proverbs 4:23, "above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."

Now love is not a livelihood. 99% of the people you help in life will never be able to compensate you for it. Do it anyway.

And sometimes the kingdom is a waiting game. Waiting is hard. It's tough....

# imagining

## *the Kingdom culture*



So Samuel the prophet is all business. He calls the town elders and everyone together.

Finally selects David....And what's stranger than the old man pouring oil

So since the anointing of Saul the first king, Samuel is nearly retired. He's taking a backseat in the Kingdom...so he's gotta do this finding venture right and he's all business and he's looking so he calls the town elders together and after a lot of searching going through all seven brothers, he finally lands on David.

And it's an odd moment right so the anointing oil it touches the head roll down the arms off the fingertips and onto the garments and there's a whole headship illustration in there, but the strangest thing is the waiting so after Samuel David

David returns to his sheep everything goes back to normal, so God's put his and Mark on David and David is back to sheep and so it's an odd moment but it's the waiting game.

# the shadow *kingdom*



Insecurity.

Insecurity will emotionally rearrange everything you see and hear and experience as a leader and a person.

Poor Foundations.

The problem with a bad foundation in buildings and in people is that it can take years to discover.

Discovering your ear is as important as finding your voice as a leader. David began to discern the voice of God.

That reminds me of a story I read this week from Utah that I mom wrote in to this magazine about her son....

She said, For the second week in a row, my son and I were the only ones who showed up for his soccer team's practice. Frustrated, I told him, "Please tell your coach that we keep coming for practice but no one is ever here."

My son rolled his eyes and said, "He'll just tell me the same thing he did before."

"Which was?"

"That practice is now on Wednesdays, not Tuesdays."

....

1. Saul:

Saul's story is one of a promising start that deteriorates due to disobedience and pride. Initially, Saul was humble and chosen by God to be the king of Israel, but over time, he allowed his

insecurities and desire for power to take over. His downfall came when he made decisions based on his own understanding rather than God's will.

Life lessons from Saul:

**The Dangers of Insecurity:** Saul's fear of losing power made him paranoid, leading to rash decisions. He became obsessed with David as a threat to his throne, even though David was loyal. Saul's insecurity led him to isolate himself and push away people who could have supported him.

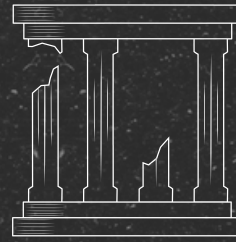
Insecurity will emotionally rearrange everything you see and hear and experience as a leader and a person.

**The Consequences of Disobedience:** Saul's failure to fully obey God's commands (such as when he spared King Agag and the best of the spoils of war) resulted in his rejection as king. This teaches that partial obedience or following personal agendas instead of God's direction has consequences.

The problem with a bad foundation in buildings and in people is that it can take years to discover.

**Pride Before the Fall:** Saul's pride in his own judgment over God's commands is a reminder that when we elevate our own will above God's, it can lead to downfall and disillusionment.

# the shadow *kingdom*



Entitlement antidote:

When you serve others, the bitterness of not being served is washed away.

Rebellion:

Important question: Can I remain loving when wounded?

Discontent:

When I compare myself to someone else I always lose my way.

Absalom:

Absalom, David's son, represents the dangers of rebellion, unchecked ambition, and discontent with leadership.

His story is tragic in that it reveals the destructive consequences of desiring power for the sake of personal gain.

Antitode

When you serve others, the bitterness of not being served is washed away.

Life lessons from Absalom:

The Consequences of Rebellion: Absalom's rebellion against his father, David, was rooted in personal resentment and a desire for the throne. His bitterness and desire for revenge clouded his judgment and ultimately led to his downfall. His story teaches us that harboring bitterness can lead to destructive decisions and irreversible consequences.

Important question: Can I remain loving when wounded?

The Perils of Pride and Entitlement: Absalom believed he deserved the throne more than his father, and his pride blinded him to the complexities of leadership. His desire for power at any cost



led him to betray his own family. This serves as a reminder of the danger of feeling entitled to things that are not rightfully ours.

The Brokenness of Discontent: Absalom's actions were driven by personal grievances—particularly his discontent over how his sister Tamar was treated by his half-brother Amnon, and his subsequent estrangement from David. His story highlights how unresolved pain, if not dealt with properly, can breed rebellion and destruction.

That reminds me of a readers digest story: (Joke)

After a coworker had finished his English lecture and his class had filed out, a tenth grader stayed behind to confront him.

"I don't appreciate being singled out," he told his teacher.  
The teacher was confused.

"What do you mean?"

"I don't know what the 'oxy' part means, but I know what a 'moron' is, and you looked straight at me when you said it."

—Jannie Smith, Ashville, Alabama

# imagining *the Kingdom culture*



To develop in our mission statement as a future church:

Our development is framed from followership.

- Selflessness: Selflessness is embodied and successful followership into the apprenticeship of Jesus Christ. You will develop a variety of skills, models, and strategies designed to make you a successful servant. Embodied service is the hallmark of Christian leadership in the church and in the world.

He must increase; I must decrease. – John 3:30

- Excellence: As an emerging follower, you will experience the rigor and develop the capacity to help the organization you serve by having focus, being an effective communicator, having a bias for action, and be able to create a clear and compelling vision. Excellence honors God.

Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men – Colossians 3:23

- Scholarship: You will have an awareness of the tools necessary to make you specialists in your particular craft of study and with the Christian capacity to integrate to progress in your field with Christian principles.

For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge. – 2 Peter 1:5



- Emotionally Intelligent: You will identify your strengths and weaknesses through assessments and through coaching opportunities that will spur your development in creativity and problem solving.

But as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you – see that you excel in this act of grace also. – 2 Corinthians 8:7

- Team-oriented: You will have opportunities to demonstrate the power of collaboration, since great work and calling are connected to relationships on a team.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another. – Hebrews 10: 24



“You have made us for yourself, O Lord,  
and our hearts are restless until they rest  
in you.” – Augustine  
– Confessions, Book 1, Chapter 1

## The Power of Habit

Experience is the gap between what one knows and what one does. What if we aren't first and foremost thinkers? Then the problem isn't our resolve or lack of knowledge.

If we question the primacy of thinking and knowledge, aren't we going to slide. Into an anti-intellectualist embrace of emotion and feeling? And isn't that precisely what's wrong with contemporary culture? How's that working out for you? Has all of your knowledge and information liberated you from those habits? As they say in AA, your best thinking got you here.

We don't need less knowledge we need to also include habit. We need to embrace a more wholistic view of persons that includes knowledge in relation to experience and habit.

Paul prays in Philippians is that they may love more and therefore abound more in knowledge. The sequence is as follows.

I love. Therefore, I comprehend. I love in order to understand. We start by attending to our loves. You are in fact what you love.

Augustine Confessions says it this way: “You have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in you.”

Habits shape us. Behavior shapes belief.

This reminds me of what young mom said about her four year old:

Upon being reminded to use the toilet after waking up, my four-year-old was thoroughly dismayed: “You mean I’m going to have to go potty every day for the rest of my life?!”

# only human

*after all*



To be human is to be:  
for something, pursuing something, and  
directed toward some ends.

†

To be human is to be for something. To be human is to be on the move pursuing something, after something, We are creatures directed toward some end.

we are existential sharks - we need movement...

Greek word *cardia* explains:

The dynamic between our guts and our heart. Science and neuroscience has discovered it, UCLA scholars understand the interplay between our micro gut and our heart. A feeling in our guts is connected to our heart...

So again, just like Saul, or David, or Absalom....

It's a question not of whether you long for some version of the kingdom but of which version you long for.

You cannot not love. The heart is at the seat of our emotion and the driver of our existence.

# We imitate

Follow me as I follow...



So what do we do... we first imitate....We practice the presence of God.

Racket Sports:

Did you know that....

People that play racket sports live longer than everybody else, even more than those jogging, cycling or exercising individually according to a few recent studies. There are likely various reasons for this which could include socio-economic reason.

Still one of the reasons may have to do with the part of the brain called the cerebellum, which is near the bottom of the brain. Its about 12% of the brain's total volume, but about half of the brains neurons exists there. One of its main functions is the coordination of spatial reasoning.

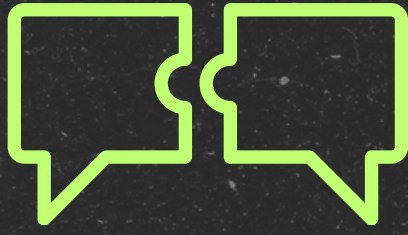
Sports like table tennis, racket ball, pickle ball, and tennis combine spatial coordination, lateral movement (great for balancing muscles) with exercise, and teamwork. Additionally, the bounce of the ball, helps anticipating and planning skills. All of this is prime material for more neurons to grow (neurogenesis.)

Your body remakes only about 700 new neurons a day but this decrease as we age. Things like negative thinking and stress also decrease neurological development. Neurogenesis occurs in three or four places in the brain and the new cells can travel to a damaged area. When we imitate Christ, I think that neurogenesis is also causing our minds to renew.

We practice celebration, we practice sacrifice...when we give so that when we really need the muscle...we have it.

Chris Allen from St. Louis once told the story of his kid in church....

In church, my three-year-old insists on being the one to put the money into the collection basket. One Sunday, as the basket came toward him, he held out the envelope and asked really loudly, "When is God coming to pick up his paycheck?"



# confession

Can I remain honorable when tempted?  
Can I remain composed when humiliated?  
Can I remain loving when wounded?  
Can I remain enthusiastic when corrected?

## Key Questions:

Can I remain honorable when tempted?  
Can I remain composed when humiliated?  
Can I remain loving when wounded?  
Can I remain enthusiastic when corrected?