Building Cathedrals and Who Gets the Glory

Cologne Cathedral, Germany
1248 - 1880 AD
Cathédrale Saint-Sauveur d’Aix-en-Provence, France, ~500 AD
Basilica of Saints Nazarius and Celsus, France

~500 AD
Westminster Abbey,
England, 1042 AD
St. Anne’s Church in Jerusalem

1138 AD
Notre Dame de Paris, France
1163 AD
Very Important Aspects Each Has in Common

• Each is a beautifully ornate work of art.
• Each took years to build.
• The builders were obviously very dedicated to the craft.
• They were built to glorify God.
• There are literally 1000’s of such cathedrals around the world.
• **Builder: Unknown**
Builder: Unknown

- They gave everything for this project.

- Some of these buildings took over 100 years to build... more than one man’s lifetime.

- No credit given for the work.

- Showing up to a job they’d never see finished, for a building their name would never be on.
“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”

(Matthew 6:5-8 ESV)
“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

(Matthew 6:16-18 ESV)
Why this surprises us

- We are too often driven by PRIDE
- Even in Spiritual matters
- We are driven by accolades and recognition
- This leads to hypocrisy, hidden faults and sins, and judgmental attitudes
- The church has EARNED their reputation
Is This How God Sees Church Growth?
SOLI DEO GLORIA
Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God:  **It is not for your sake**, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but **for the sake of my holy name**, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. **And the nations will know that I am the Lord**, declares the Lord God, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes.
Conversions According to Ezekiel 36:22-32

I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.
Conversions According to Ezekiel 36:22-32

You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. And I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. And I will summon the grain and make it abundant and lay no famine upon you. I will make the fruit of the tree and the increase of the field abundant, that you may never again suffer the disgrace of famine among the nations. Then you will remember your evil ways, and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves for your iniquities and your abominations.
Conversions According to Ezekiel 36:22-32

*It is not for your sake that I will act,* declares the Lord God; let that be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your ways, O house of Israel.
Conversions According to Paul

For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. What I mean is that each one of you says, “I follow Paul,” or “I follow Apollos,” or “I follow Cephas,” or “I follow Christ.” Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

(1 Corinthians 1:11-17 ESV)
But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not being merely human?

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

(1 Corinthians 3:1-7 ESV)
God’s Work…
Not Ours

• We are not at the center of God’s universe! He is!

• The reason He has loved and saved you and I?

• To have His name gloried among the people!

• What are we doing here?
God’s Work… Not Ours

- Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?
  (1 Corinthians 3:16 ESV)

- As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
  (1 Peter 2:4-5 ESV)

- You are building God’s Cathedral. It’s OK if other’s don’t see you as long as they see HIM.
Building Cathedrals

How God Gets the Glory