

**COMING UP:**

1. Men's ministry – Arcade Night – April 29<sup>th</sup> (\$10, 5p-8p, Klassic Arcade 2.0)
2. Crazy-Huge-Sale donations – Contact Justin Warner – jwarner@freshwatercc.org

**OPEN IN PRAYER**

**RECAP:** Sunday was week four in our series, “**REACTIONS TO THE RESURRECTION.**” While observing the great reaction of the apostle Paul, our main challenge was that, “**the resurrection demands we build the church.**” One of the greatest reactions to the resurrection we can have as Christian is to be active in “**BUILDING**” the church up through discipleship, evangelism and more - just like Paul!

1. Take a moment to discuss what from this Sunday's sermon encouraged or challenged you.

**DISCUSS:** Paul was a powerful instrument of God in building the church, but a man named Barnabas (whose name means ‘son of encouragement’) was instrumental in building Paul up soon after Paul’s conversion.

**Acts 9:27** says “*But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the apostles and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus.*”

1. Who is someone in your life who has been instrumental in building YOU up in life and in faith?
2. What is it in you that was BUILT UP by this other person?

**CHARLES SPURGEON:** “*Satan always hates Christian fellowship; it is his policy to keep Christians apart. Anything which can divide saints from one another he delights in. He attaches far more importance to godly intercourse than we do. Since union is strength, he does his best to promote separation.*”

1. Discuss your thoughts on this quote. In what sort of ways do you see this happen in churches today?

## APPLICATION

**Proverbs 27:17** "Iron sharpens iron, and one man **sharpens** another."

**Ephesians 4:11-16** "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. 14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and **builds itself up** in love, as each part does its work."

1. The process of sharpening each other that is mentioned in Proverbs is explained well by the passage in Ephesians.
  - a. What from these scriptures speaks to you the most?
2. Considering verse 13, how would you define Christian maturity?
3. What area(s) of your life and faith do you feel is dull and in need of sharpening?
  - a. Consider the fruit of the spirit: (*Gal. 5:22-23*) "Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."
  - b. Consider the struggle in overcoming sin:
  - c. Consider a private discipline of faith (worship, prayer, scripture, tithing)
  - d. Consider your relationships (marriage, kids, parents, siblings, friends)
  - e. Other?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER:** As you close in prayer be encouraged to share ANYTHING you desire prayer for, as well as anything specifically relating to today's discussion.