

## “The Trouble with Tower Building”

Genesis 11:1-9

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### Sermon Handout

#### Genesis 11:1-9 (ESV)

11 Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. <sup>2</sup> And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there. <sup>3</sup> And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. <sup>4</sup> Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.” <sup>5</sup> And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. <sup>6</sup> And the LORD said, “Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. <sup>7</sup> Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another’s speech.” <sup>8</sup> So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. <sup>9</sup> Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

#### Unrestrained and Unguided

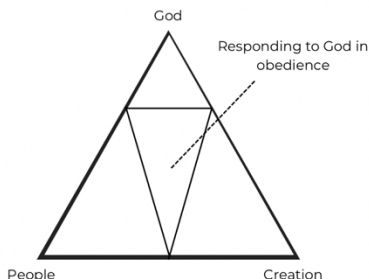
- Pressing against what God would have us to do
- Understanding who God is and how to relate to him
- Ungoverned by God’s Word

#### Prescriptive versus Patterned

- Not an anti-city narrative
- The challenge of dealing with the world’s brokenness

#### Setting the Stage: The Creation Narrative

- Human flourishing in creation
- God, people and creation
- The serpent’s accusation
- From paradise to prison
- The fall and relating to God



### **Genesis 11:1-9**

- Background information in the narrative
- Three Challenges
  1. Coordination
  2. Technology
  3. Finding Our Place in the World

### **Reasonableness of the Solution**

- Walking by sight, not by faith
- God's affirmation of human capacity

### **Brokenness as an Entree to Witness**

- Human intentions, human ignorance
- People are lost
- Utilizing brokenness to share the gospel
- Relevance, sight, and the fear of the Lord

### **Christian Witness**

- How is it that you see the brokenness of the world
- Starting points for conversation
- Being counter-points
- Recognizing and understanding what is "sacred" to others