

## The Four Stages of Christianity 5

We have covered the first 3 stages of Christianity, which brings us to the final stage, which is the "Make Me" or build me stage.

### 4. MAKE ME

Jesus said He is the builder of His church and the church He builds, the gates of hades don't overpower. This is the "Make Me" stage.

***Matthew 16:18 I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.***

We can not overcome the flesh, the culture of the world and satan, when we are in the "Give Me", "Use Me" or "Break Me" stage. Only when we have transitioned out of these stages and Jesus is building us into His image, will we be the overcomers which the scriptures declare we can be.

This is to be a very sobering reality and one that motivates us to allow God to move us through the stages and into the final stage of "Make Me".

Man can not build anything eternal. He can only build temporal things and temporal things are futile, when it comes to God's kingdom. Unless God builds the house, (the church) man labours in vain.

***Psalms 127:1 Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it.***

The word 'vain' means futile, emptiness, false. Man builds what's false, empty and futile. The challenge is, to the flesh what man builds looks attractive, life giving and true. This is the problem with the institutional model of Christianity. It's a form of godliness but isn't godliness, and many are deceived by it and live for it, never realising they are part of something man is building, but not God.

What do we notice from the below passages of scripture?

What is the 1 distinct and very clear attribute in each passage?

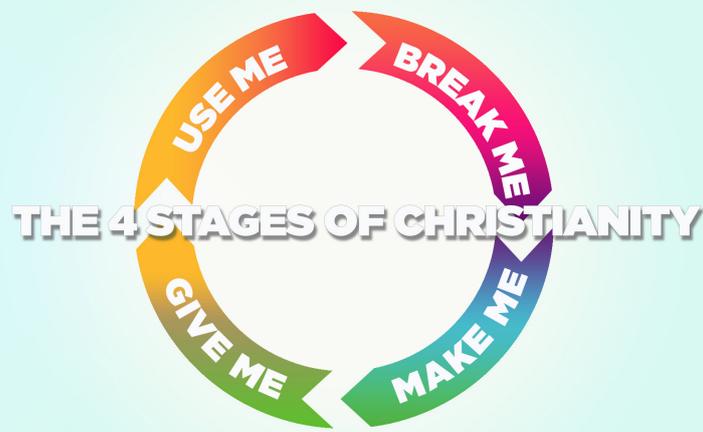
***1 Corinthians 3:5-7 What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one. I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.***

***Hebrews 3:4 For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.***

***Philippians 2:13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.***

***Philippians 1:6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.***

Why is it, when the scriptures are overwhelmingly clear who makes and builds what, we hear "let's build the church" or "let's build the kingdom", coming out of the mouths of those in leadership and followers today?



Only God can make us into His image. Only God can write His living Word on our hearts and minds through His divine power. Only God can reveal who Jesus is within us. Only God, only God, only God, only God.

When God or the Spirit makes us, then we become the recipient of His eternal life being formed and established within and through us. We start to mature into the fullness of having Christ's life birthed in us. This is called "abiding" in Christ. As we abide in Christ through His Spirit, the fruit of the Spirit, starts to grow within us. We become the branch which the fruit is produced through.

***John 15:5 I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.***

***John 15:8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.***

The evidence of being in the "Make Me" stage, is the fruit of God's spirit being produced in us. We bear much fruit when we are in the "Make Me" stage. This fruit of the Spirit, or the nature of Christ, empowers and enables us to love like Christ, and fulfill the Great Commandments. Truth is self evident and so it becomes very evident by our ability to love as Christ, that Christ is making or building us as His disciples.

Anything less than this and we have to question if any building work is actually taking place.

### **Questions**

1. Why can't man build anything of eternal value?
2. How does God build His church or make us into His image?
3. What are the positive outcomes for us if God is the maker or builder of His people?
4. How do we discern the difference between the church Jesus builds and the institution man builds?
5. God is glorified when we bear much fruit and prove to be His disciples. What are our thoughts in relation to this verse?

### **Action Point**

What are you being made aware of from this discussion and what do you sense the Father is saying to you in relation to this?