

The Tower of Babel: A Monument to Pride

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This is the third catastrophic curse on mankind. **First** was the fall (the sentence of death). **Second** was the flood (the removal of longevity). **Third** was the confusion of languages (the division of the people of the earth). There were (at least) four basic sins committed at the Tower of Babel. I will list those four basic sins along with an application.

1. They disobeyed a direct command of God. They gathered rather than scatter. The physical purpose of this tower was to keep people from spreading out and filling the earth, which was a direct disobedience of God's command to *be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth... Populate the earth abundantly and multiply in it* (Genesis 9:1 and 7).



Application: Simple. Don't disobey a specific command of God for our age.

2. Their motivation was based in pride. The spiritual purpose for the tower was to *make for ourselves a name* (or a *fame*). The idea was to have an identity that would serve as a rallying point to bind them together and allow them to establish independent value. Pride assumes value independent from God. Humility is value dependent upon God. Humility is value assigned by God. The Bible repeatedly says *God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble* (James 4:6; Matthew 23:12; 1 Peter 5:5).

Application: Simple. Don't do be proud of anyone or anything, ever.

3. They disobeyed God by doing something that was not necessarily wrong. Their sin was not in building a city or a tower. There is no command of God that prohibited either one. But they used something that was not in-and-of-itself sinful, to disobey a command of God. If we asked them about their building project they might say, "What's the problem? God never prohibited building cities and towers."

Application: Not so simple. We can easily justify what we are doing because the act itself is not sinful, when it results in disobeying or not fulfilling a command of God. An example might be involvement in political or social causes that rob us of time and energy to *Go therefore make disciples, be My witnesses and entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also*. (Matthew 28:1; Acts 1:8; 2 Timothy 2:2).

4. They used technology to disobey God. Technology and the use of technology is never condemned in-and-of-itself. Noah used the technology of fastening wood so it didn't leak. The Israelites developed a technology for digging water wells, the apostles used the technology of Roman ships, road, and writing utensils. But technology is not the "common grace" of God as Calvin claimed, and technology is not necessarily good.

Application: Don't buy into the idea that technology, such as the development of the west, is the grace of God. It can be used to spread the gospel, but it will also be used to bring the antichrist to power. Technology can be a power for good or evil. Technology is a tool. Be careful how you use it.