

DEVOTED TO BRIDGE BUILDING

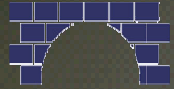


Eph. 2:11-19

Webster's Dictionary lists ten different kinds of bridges or uses of the word.



Our concern for today is with building metaphorical bridges and their importance.



IN HUMAN & DIVINE RELATIONS

CHRIST

DIVINE



HUMAN

➤ **After man sinned in the Garden of Eden, God spent 4,000 years developing a bridge to reach alienated man.**

- **He built a bridge by which man could be restored to a saved and right relationship with his Creator.**

- **“O the love that drew salvation’s plan...O the grace that brought it down to man!...O the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary!”**

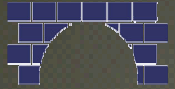
~ William R. Newell

▪ **God built a bridge by means of the cross of Christ.**

✓ **Bridged the gulf between Jew and Gentile to become fellow citizens as saints (Eph. 2:11-19).**

✓ ***“There is neither Jew nor Greek... for ye are all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:28).***





IN BRETHREN RELATIONS

CHRISTIANS

BROTHER

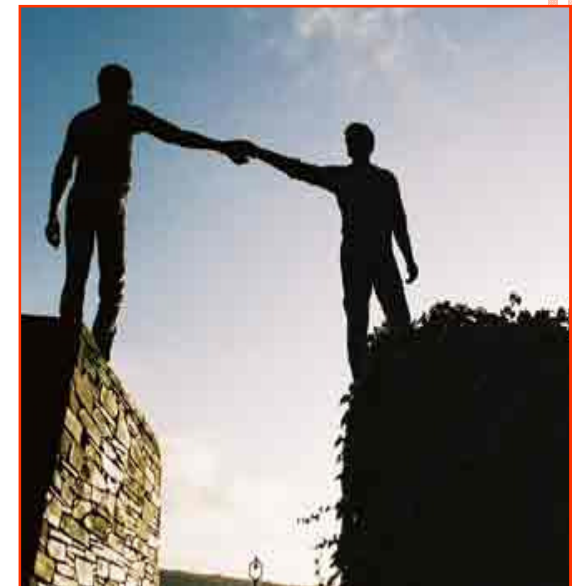


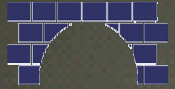
BROTHER

- **Paul encouraged the Gentile churches of Macedonia & Achaia to send monies to the poor saints in Judea (Rom. 15:25-28).**
 - **The apostle wanted the brethren to help close the void between Jewish and Gentile Christians.**
 - ✓ **Taking the gospel to them was foundational to the bridgework.**
 - ✓ **Now it was their time to help materially.**



- **Paul wrote a letter to Philemon to build a bridge for the reconciling of Philemon and his slave, Onesimus.**
 - **Philemon was to receive Onesimus not only as a penitent slave, but now also as a brother in Christ (Philemon 16).**
 - ✓ **Paul was willing to absorb the debt Onesimus owed Philemon to restore their relationship.**





CHRIST'S TEACHING

CHRISTIANS

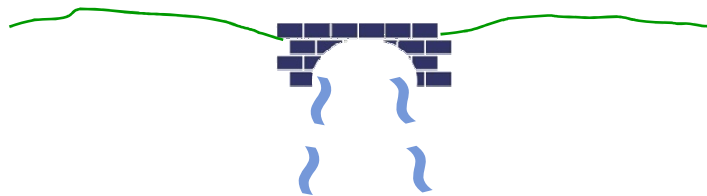
OFFENDED

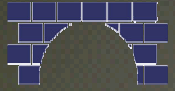


OFFENDER

- **Jesus taught that Christians should be bridge builders when personal offenses are involved (Matt. 18:15-18).**
 - **This is not the scriptural procedure to follow with the false teacher who has circulated false teaching.**
 - ✓ **Offenses known only by the offended.**
 - ✓ **If offender accepts overtures of the offended, it is settled then and there, never becoming public.**

- ✓ **Christ has made bridge building essential to acceptable worship (Matt. 5:23, 24).**
- ✓ **Disciples of Christ will be bridge builders.**
- ✓ **The non-Christian approach would be to besiege and destroy those struggling in their relationship.**





TO REACH ALIENS

CHRISTIANS

SAVED



LOST

➤ **Jesus sent His apostles preaching and then the seventy on the limited commission to teach lost souls (Matt. 10:16; Lk. 10:3).**

- **He taught them to be *“wise as serpents and harmless as doves.”***

- **He taught them how to cope with the many barriers to be faced:**

- ✓ **He crossed barriers when teaching the woman at the well:**

- **He faced racial barriers being a Jew teaching a Samaritan (Jn. 4:9).**
- **Violated acceptable behavior by speaking as a man with a woman in public (Jn. 4:27).**
- **He crossed religious lines between Jews and Samaritans (Jn. 4:20ff).**
- **He crossed moral barriers as the sinless one speaking with a woman having a shameful past (Jn. 4:16-19).**

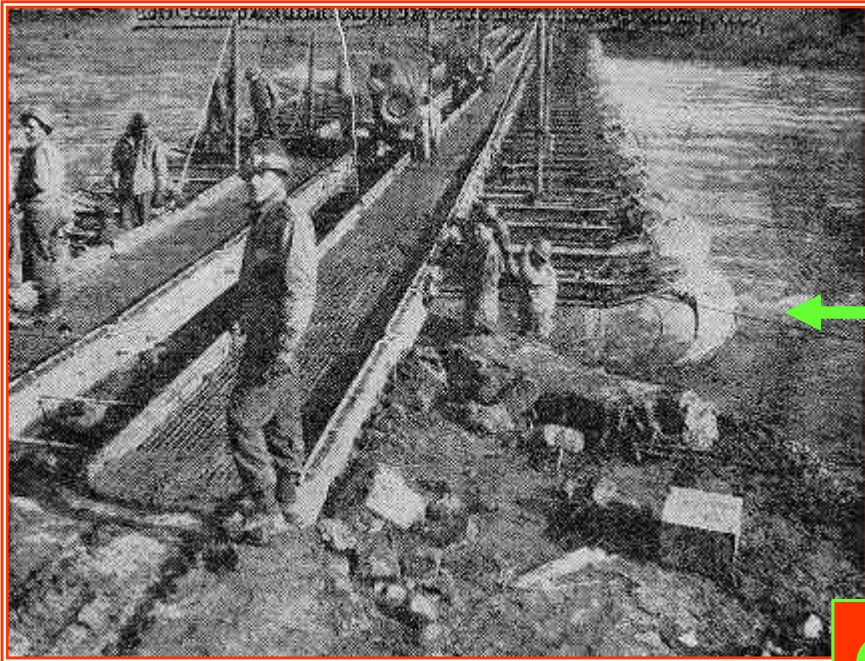
- **No barrier should be allowed to prevent us from seeking the salvation of a lost soul!**
- **Paul said, “I have become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some” (1 Cor. 9:22b).**
- **Building social influence is the most effective soul-saving agency that is available to us.**



- **Jesus moved in the lives of people:**
 - ✓ **He was among those who were sick, weeping, hungry, and tired from working.**
 - ✓ **He cured, fed, comforted, and rested them.**
 - ✓ **Whether he was in the country, city, desert, lake, or home...He was a loving friend.**



ARE YOU A BRIDGE BUILDER?



**The Bridge on the
River Kwai (1942)**

OR

**U.S. Army's building
a pneumatic bridge
across the Sure river
into Germany (early 40's)**



**ARE YOU A BRIDGE
WRECKER?**

**The Real Crossing That Should Matter
To Us Is Making The Transition From
Earth To Heaven!**



I Thess. 4:13-18

