

## The City Genesis 11:1-9

Everyone wants to create something meaningful that makes a lasting impact on the world. Sadly, we often create out of Pride or a need for Protection, which always leads to failure. However, in the midst of our failure, the Lord provides a solution and calls us to create out of His Person instead.

### Read: Gen 11.1-9

**Intro: The Tower of Dunn** – My freshman year at A&M, Ben and I lived in Dirty Dunn, complete with terrible **modular furniture** from the 70s. There's not a lot of creativity in dorm rooms (just cinder blocks and sadness), but we **refused to conform** to the norm and decided to make a **memorable dorm room experience** and explore uncharted territory with our furniture setup

- All we had were **2 block shelves and 2 block drawers**, but despite our lack of materials, we managed to create a masterpiece we called **The Tower** – because it was a literal tower in the dead center of our room that **violated every fire code** our RA quoted occasionally
- We loved The Tower, but we moved off campus the next year and never really thought about it again... until **3yrs later** when we went back into Dunn to see a friend's younger brother's room.
- As we marveled at all the **new furniture**, we said it was funny how despite the fact everything was nice and new, it was **still all modular, just like "back in our day."** At that point, the freshman got this wild look in his eye and told us "Ya, actually, during our floor meeting, our RA told us about this one time **some guys in Dunn** actually took all their furniture and **built some insane tower** in the middle of their room! **And now no one can do that."**
- Needless to say, Ben and I exploded with joy, and are quick to let people know we created our very own **urban legend... Why?**

### The Truth is...

- **We all want to create a legacy!** No one wants a meaningless life... Everyone wants to create something lasting and meaningful! Why?

### The Point

- All semester we're talking about Culture from what it is to how we react to Culture with **God's Grace/Bible/Church**. Last week we saw that we are called to Create culture (material/meaning) and **we discussed the Why and What**. Today we're asking How should we create culture? How do we create something meaningful?
  - **God calls us to create culture out of His Person** (who He is and what He's done) – easy answer, but just like Babel, we often create out of...

### Pride (11.4a)

- **11.4a** - "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"
- We can scoff at the Tower of Babel, but we're all actively falling into this same trap – **we want a name for ourselves!**
  - **Ex: Robert and Cody's video careers** – My junior year of college, there was a big baseball scandal with **Alex Rodriguez** (steroids, interview, loosey goosey) so my friend Robert decided to make a **YouTube video** of himself parodying A-Rod (terrible accent, not Dominican, 440 views)
  - **Ex:** That same week, my friend Cody decided to make a YouTube video of himself and his roommates shooting **trick basketball shots** at their house, at which point you probably thought **"ya, like Dude Perfect"** but we didn't think that because **they WERE Dude Perfect**

(Book, iPhone game, 153mil views)

- Given the option, everyone here would make “the basketball one” because everyone wants to make a name for yourself (**100hrs/min** upload rate; mostly people wanting to make a name for themselves)
- **App:** Why do you really want to make that **GPA** (good/bad)? Why are you actually joining that **organization**? Why are you actually being nice to that **guy/girl**? What are you **creating out of Pride**?
- Even if you feel like you’ve avoided pride, are you creating out of...

#### Protection (11.4)

- **11.4** - 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.”
- Again, we can scoff at the Tower of Babel, but even if we hop over the Pride trap, we fall directly into the **trap of creating Protection**
  - **Ex: Hunger Games Scramble** – I pick on H.G., but I’m as psyched for the new Hunger Games movie as the next person who loves murdering for sport. One of the most intense moments from the Hunger Games is when all the kids are first dropped into the Arena because there’s a mad scramble for all the supplies in the center – **Get stuff in order to survive** (my biscuits!)
  - **App:** Just like Babel, we find ourselves in a mad scramble to get stuff in order to survive – Why **GPA, Org, BF/GF?** (my relationship!) What are you creating **out of Protection**?
- Whether you create out of Pride or Protection, both have an inherent...

#### Problem (11.5-9)

- **11.5-9** - “And the Lord came...”
  - Everything the people **created in v3-4 gets wrecked in v5-9**
  - And now Babel’s great legacy is miscommunication and misunderstanding
    - **Fun Ex: Misunderstanding Susan** - I recently told Doulos that when Susan and I were dating, I would often **try to fix Susan’s problems** and make her cry in the process (emotional sweat)
    - **Tough Ex:** Marriages and Families and Friendships wrecked by this
- The problem with **Pride** is you’re elevating **yourself above God**, but the problem with **Protection** is you’re elevating **creation above God**
  - Icing on the fail cake: **These methods don’t even “work”; They always fail**
- **Prov 10.24a** – “What the wicked dreads will come upon him”
  - **A life spent creating out of pride or protection is a life completely wasted - Our towers will always fall or we’ll destroy ourselves trying to hold them up**
  - **App:** **GPA** gets wrecked, **Org** ends, **Boyfriend/Girlfriend** ends or isn’t perfect, we all **die**
- Great. Everything we do **ends in failure**. What can we do about it?
  - Answer: Nothing. **God doesn’t tell us how to build stronger towers** with better bricks. But, the good news is...

#### Person (11.5)

- The **focal point** of this narrative isn’t the dummies making the tower or failing at it – **it’s “the Lord” who “came down”** – It’s not about us, it’s about the **Person of God**
  - The Garden and Babel are the bookends of the creation narrative, and both hinge on **mankind’s failure – then the Lord** who comes down with a solution
- “Nothing is Impossible” - God isn’t threatened by the tower and acting out of self-defense; **He’s acting out of grace!**
  - **Romans 1** – worst judgment is giving us up; create out of Pride or Protection
  - **Tough Ex:** In the last 100yrs, Genocides in China (60), Russia (35), Germany (15), Japan (5), Turkey (3), Cambodia (2) - created out of Pride and Protection
- In the midst of our failure, we have a **Lord who came down** and has provided a solution out of grace

and we are made into a New Creation

- Having received this Grace, we should ask...

**APP: How do we create out of God's Person? How to avoid Pride and Protection?**

- **Out of Humility**

- A mind filled with prayer has no room for pride
- **Ex:** Why I pray at start; 1 Cor 1.21

- **Out of Faith**

- Hold resources in open hand; Create in a realm with no foreseeable benefit
- **Ex:** I started in Jr. High ministry; opportunities in **CHILDREN MINISTRY**