

# *the five* **FOUNDATION STONES**

Build Your Life as You Build the Kingdom • The Stone of Respect

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Proverbs 30:15-16 NIV

**Key question for the series: *What is your life built upon?***

## **Introduction to Respect:**

The “Stone of Respect” is the last stone in the *Five Foundation Stones Series*. This last stone, along with last week’s sermon, “Stone of Caution”, is another preventative stone to build your life upon, as you build the Kingdom of God.

To give some context, in the country of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the land was contaminated with over 3 million landmines primarily as a result of the 1992-1995 conflict related to the break-up of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Some of the landmines date back to WW II. In a square mile alone, there could be over 1, 500 hidden land mines! It is estimated that there are over 1 million still undiscovered land mines. On average, these hidden mines injure or kill 40 innocent civilians a month.

Psalm 119:105 says, “*Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.*” If we build our lives on the Word of God, we can avoid the landmines of the Enemy.

**KEY TRUTH:** *There is both a blessing and a protection over our lives when we respect certain things as sacred*

**Definition of *Sacred*:** describes something related to religion [Jesus] or something treated with great respect; to regard with particular reverence or respect.

**Key Text:** “The leech has two daughters. 'Give! Give!' they cry. "There are three things that are never satisfied, four that never say, 'Enough!': the *grave, the barren womb, land, which is never satisfied with water, and fire, which never says, 'Enough!'* Proverbs 30:15-16 (NIV)

Leeches are tiny creatures that attach themselves and suck the blood, or life, from someone or some animal. When we do not treat our lives as sacred, from God, we can make unwise decisions that lead to unhealthy attachments. Inevitably, this will lead a person further and further from the abundant life God desires for His children.

There are four truths in this text we must learn to respect in order that our lives will be built upon an enduring foundation.

Four Key Truths to Understand these Verses:

1. "The grave" speaks to *Eternity*
2. "The barren womb" speaks to *Unfruitfulness*
3. "The land" speaks to *Resources*
4. "Fire" speaks to *Passions*

### **Building Your Life on the Stone of Respect**

#### **1. Respect Eternity**

- "The leech has two daughters. 'Give! Give!' they cry. "There are three things that are never satisfied, four that never say, 'Enough!': the **grave**..."
- When we wake up every morning, we must respect the day given to us, for no one knows the day or the hour when their life here on earth expires.
- 2 Key questions to ask in decision making:
  - How will this decision will affect *my* eternity?
  - What is God going to think about this when I see Him face to face?

**Key Takeaway:** "Do not boast about tomorrow for you do not know what a day may bring forth." Proverbs. 27:1

#### **2. Respect Unfruitfulness.**

- "...four that never say, 'Enough!' ... the **barren womb**..."
- There's frailty and weaknesses in every person, just like we can find in ourselves.
  - When you do not respect someone's frailty, you become judgmental and arrogant, and the life of Christ is sucked right out of you.
  - We must be careful to cover people's weaknesses, just as the love and mercy of Christ covers us. (Proverbs 25:2)

**Key Takeaway:** "Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. *Mercy triumphs over judgment!* James 2:12-13 (NIV)

#### **3. Respect Your Resources**

- "...four that never say, 'Enough!' ... **land**, which is never satisfied with water..."
- God gives every person financial resources, talent, energy, abilities, jobs, education, etc.
- God gave land so farmers can sow seed, but what if the land is ignored?
  - If the land dries up, you starve and die!
  - God has given us our bodies, minds and finances. Sow into your mind by reading books this year. Take care of your body by exercising and eating well.
    - The Bible doesn't say money is evil. The LOVE of money is what's EVIL

**Key Takeaway:** “The lazy man does not roast his game, but the diligent man prizes his possessions.” Proverbs 12:27

#### 4. **Respect Your Passions**

- “...four that never say, 'Enough!'... and **fire**, which never says, 'Enough!’”
- God gave us passions and appetites, but if we don’t learn to tame those passions, they will consume us.
- God has given us the Holy Spirit, to help us in our times of need
  - One of the fruits of the Spirit is “self-control” – Galatians 5:23
  - “...If by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of darkness, you will live.” – Romans 8:13
- Seek to honor and fear the Lord in all that you do.
  - Be very careful what your eyes see and what you’re putting into your minds, ears and heart.

**Key Takeaway:** “Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned?” Proverbs 6:27

**GRACE**

**RESPECT**

**WISDOM**

**CAUTION**

**AUTHORITY**