

Milk, Foundation and Principles

by Anton Bosch

This sermon delves into the importance of understanding the foundational principles of the Word of God, emphasizing the need to progress from milk to solid food in spiritual maturity. It highlights the significance of having a solid foundation in Christ, the necessity of continually applying basic principles like love for God and neighbor, and the ongoing principle of death, burial, and resurrection in the Christian walk.

Duration: 47:30

Scripture: Hebrews 5:12, Hebrews 6:1, Matthew 22:37, Romans 15:20, Ephesians 2:20, 1 Corinthians 3:11, Galatians 5:14, Colossians 2:6, 1 Peter 2:4

Topics: "Spiritual Maturity", "Foundation in Christ"

Description

This sermon delves into the importance of understanding the foundational principles of the Word of God, emphasizing the need to progress from milk to solid food in spiritual maturity. It highlights the significance of having a solid foundation in Christ, the necessity of continually applying basic principles like love for God and neighbor, and the ongoing principle of death, burial, and resurrection in the Christian walk.

Transcript

Hebrews chapter 5 and we'll read Hebrews 5 12 through chapter 6 verse 3 Hebrews 5 verse 12 through chapter 6 verse 3 for though by this time you ought to be teachers you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God and you have come to need milk and not solid food for everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness for he is a babe but solid food belongs to those who are of full age that is those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil therefore leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ let us go on to perfection not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith towards God of the doctrine of baptisms of laying on of resurrection of the dead and of eternal judgment and this we will do if God permits so let's just recap and I'm not going to deal with this in detail I want to just remind us that the three verses that we dealt with last week the last three verses of chapter 5 says that you need to you should be mature but you're yet immature you should be teachers you need someone to teach you again instead of having solid food you need milk now he's then in chapter 6 he's going to deal with what those principles are so what I want to focus on are the three things that he calls these these teachings he calls them milk he calls them foundation and he calls them principles and that's really what we're going to speak about this evening so if you look at verse 12 so by this time you ought to be teachers you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles or the message of God and you've come to need milk

and not solid food so milk and first principles in chapter verse 13 for everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the world of righteousness for he is a babe solid food belongs to those are a full age that is those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil therefore leaving the discussion of the amenity principles of Christ let's go on to perfection so let's talk about the milk a little bit more we did speak about the milk last week and it is the milk that causes the baby to grow the milk is everything that the baby needs baby doesn't need milk plus McDonald's the baby just needs milk for the first period but obviously as the baby grows to in order to be balanced the baby needs to move on to solid food and needs to begin to eat vegetables and meat and and all of those kinds of things and so he is saying then that these things that we're going to be talking about and we're going to spend probably six or eight weeks in them these things that he is talking about are the milk of the word they are the fundamentals and so they are the things that baby Christians need now you're going to see that they're different angles to what these things are because they milk their foundation and their principles and so from the milk aspect they are the first things that a new Christian needs now he's also going to say it's a foundation and of course the foundation is the first thing you do you can't move on unless there is a foundation the baby cannot begin its life on McDonald's it's just impossible he he cannot chew he doesn't know how to swallow he doesn't know what to do with it you you will literally kill the poor thing if you try and shove a hamburger down its throat in its first weeks now the problem is then that unless the baby has the milk it will not get to a point where it can eat solid food it will die and that's one of the problems is that many Christians come to some kind of faith but they don't receive the milk and they don't survive they don't make it in fact the the purpose of all of these things you'll see and we it's going to take us a while to get there but if you get down to verse 4 because he says because why must we do these things because it is impossible for those who once enlightened and have fallen away so the danger of falling away and so if the doesn't receive sufficient nutrition in its first weeks and months it will not be able to survive and many Christians don't survive because they come to make some decision for Christ whether it's because of an evangelistic service or because of a book or somebody testified to them and then nothing happens they they rejoice in their salvation if you will for a period and then it all disappears because there is no there has been no milk to bring them to a place where they can now begin to feed themselves and so it's absolutely vital then that new Christians be taught the first principles or the milk of the word and you'll see as we go along that these things are the other core of the faith they need to be taught you see the problem is that there's an emphasis in so-called evangelical churches not what is understood to be evangelical in the political sense today but in the sense of churches that preach the gospel there's an emphasis to emphasize the gospel and so we emphasize the gospel we say well you know if you you need to pray the sinner's prayer or whatever it is and then that's where it all stops but that is not our Commission the Commission that Jesus gave is go into all the world preach the gospel and teach them or make disciples so our job you know if Michelle gave birth to the baby in the next week was the two and she took that baby down to Ralph's to the supermarket and put it on the floor and said there's the dairy section now you sort yourself out there's plenty milk over there in fact I'll give you a few bucks so you can pay now obviously that's ridiculous it's crazy you say well that's a stupid example no it's not because that's exactly what we do we bring people into a relationship with Jesus Christ we get them born again and we say okay now go and find yourself a church and you know you're on your merry way sort yourself out it doesn't work that way the baby needs to be protected and nurtured and cared for and needs to be fed and needs to be brought to a place where eventually it can go to the supermarket and buy its own its own food and so it's absolutely vital that new Christians be fed the milk the milk causes them to grow remember we saw in Peter that we desire the pure milk of the word that we may grow thereby without the milk of the word the baby will not die either will not grow in a physical sense and in the spiritual sense it may survive babyhood

but it may be stunted for the rest of its life it may have physical and even emotional and mental problems because it was malnourished in its first months and that's exactly what we find is that there are many Christians who are who are stunted there's something wrong with them and I'm not saying mentally but spiritually there's something wrong with them because they didn't get the proper food to begin with and so in the very important beginning stages of their faith they were not fed and they grew up wrong just put it that way so the milk is absolutely essential now remember that the writer is saying that we when we should have been teachers we need to be taught these things again so how do I know that I can be off the milk when I'm able to teach these principles just as simple as that so I don't want to spend more time on the milk because we we spend time on that last time so let's get you chapter 6 and verse 1 therefore leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ let us go on to perfection and not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works so I'm going to begin with a second one first with a foundation and so just again just to get the context here he says we mustn't lay the foundation again in other words as much as the milk is something you have to move on from we said last week you can't drink milk for the rest of your life you you have to get to a point where you're able to eat a balanced meal that is suited for an adult the milk is good for a baby but it's not good for an adult obviously you know you can have milk with your cookies but you can't survive on milk as an adult so you have to move on from that you have to move on from the foundation so the point that he is making is not saying well the foundation doesn't matter but he says the foundation is a beginning point and we need to move on from that foundation now the problem here is that many want to move on but in fact the foundation is suspect and it's interesting that if you look at verse 3 well let me pull it up on the screen this we will do so he's saying we need to go on this we will do if God permits so we will go on from immaturity to maturity we will go on from the foundation to the structure we will go on to from being taught to being a teacher if God permits so what does God not want us to grow why do we need his permission for us to move on well this is something we've spoken about many times in a different context we've spoken before about education that if the kid doesn't hasn't assimilated the material at grade 3 level he shouldn't be moving on to grade 4 because he doesn't he doesn't have a foundation at the at the grade 3 level he needs to be able to understand grade 3 reading or math or whatever it is before he moves on to the next level the problem is we want to just move on we say oh yeah yeah okay I've done you know I've done this I've read the six things the foundation principles I've got them I can move on but God may not have permitted you to move on now this is very simple because this is exactly what happens in a building today when you erect a building the first thing you have to do is lay the foundation every building has a foundation you lay that foundation and you say okay we've we've poured the foundation because generally we pour it out of concrete these days and we say I've poured the foundation now I'm going to start building can you now start building once you've laid the foundation no you can't there's something that needs to happen and the key is in in verse in verse 3 it's on the screen you need a permit in other words the building inspector needs to come and look at the foundation and say the foundation is good now you can begin to build until he has passed the foundation you can't begin to build because if the foundation is wrong or for it's weak or something is not is not right you can't begin to build because it's going to be a problem later on so God does not God is a great building inspector God is building he's in the building business he's building his church and Paul uses this picture and says that we are we are built up a holy habitation for God as living stones so God is building his church and he's building it on a foundation and the foundation right at the bottom is bedrock which is Christ that's the best form of foundation we all know New York they have these massive skyscrapers a hundred floors and higher and the reason they can do that there is because the island Manhattan is is a big rock and so it doesn't take much to get down to bedrock and then you can build on that rock and you can go very high because you have a solid foundation here in this area you

can't build high like that because it's all sand and so the rock is Christ but now we must build on Christ a foundation of these teachings and once he is satisfied and he says the foundation is good now you can move on you see we we resent the building inspectors because they give us a hard time but and sometimes they do just because they have an ego problem but in principle the reason they give us a hard time is because they're looking out for our good because it's no good him saying or you slipping him a hundred bucks on the side and the foundation is rotten and you build the building and the building falls down better fix the foundation first and delay and I know when we were we were rebuilding here we had to pour foundations on the other side there and we had a problem with the foundation and we had to dig again and start all over again on one section and it's frustrating because we want to move ahead but it's not safe to move ahead it's not right to move ahead and so we need God's permission in order to move on so the foundation is absolutely absolutely critical the foundation the problem with the foundation is because is is that it's it's it's not it doesn't add to the aesthetic or the looks of the building you look around this building you can't see the foundation it's buried underground and in fact there's substantial foundations under this particular building there's another foundation that actually runs through right underneath my feet which connects that column with that column on that side a massive beam with steel in it that holds the building together and so we said well you know we want to spend money on on on finishings and really nice wood and you know the stained glass and we want all that we don't want to waste money on stuff that's going to go in the ground and that nobody's ever going to see I mean nobody ever goes to a building and said oh what a beautiful foundation but you mess up on the foundation and you soon know about it I think we all know about that building up in San Francisco that's busy falling over leaning over because the foundation is not good now obviously that's a different kind of foundation they piles that they drive into the ground but it's the same it's the same principle and so you can see a good foundation and I can tell you when we purchased this building we inspected it and it was good that the place was run down and broken and wasn't painted because we I could check the foundation not by digging down to see the foundation but by inspecting all of the walls for cracks and because it hadn't been painted over if there were cracks we could see them but there wasn't a single crack in this building and as you know this is a this is a brick and mortar building not a not a stick building but there's not a single crack anywhere there still isn't a single crack and this was built in 1964 so I can see the foundation the foundation is good it is solid it is gone through the 74 earthquake it's gone through was it 94 94 earthquake Northridge it's gone through all these various earthquakes and there is not a crack in the walls we know the foundation is solid and the same applies to a Christian if the foundation is solid when the earthquake comes there's no cracks but when a Christian begins to crack up when things go hard there's a question about the foundation are they built on solid rock or are they built on sand you remember Jesus used that illustration he said one man two men built houses seems they built in the same area one man built on the sand and the floods and the wind came and the house collapsed and the other one built on the rock and obviously a foundation and the winds and the rain came and the house stood and it didn't fall over and so the foundation even though we don't want to spend time on it is absolutely important and it is visible when I visit churches I can often tell you whether the foundation is good or not when I meet with Christians I can often tell you certainly after a short while what kind of foundation does this person have because it shows up in the structure so the so the foundation is absolutely vital you can't at the same time keep building the foundation you can't put down the foundation then you said well I'm going to put another foundation and another one another one it doesn't work that way you need to build a foundation once the foundation is good you start building the superstructure you begin to to build a house or the or the building on top of that foundation now the danger with these things is that there are Christians who spend their lives trying to get the foundation right and they wonder why the house never comes together I know a

group of Christians that we were associated with 25 years ago 25 years later when I check on how these guys are doing they still preaching these verses almost every week repentance from dead works faith towards God laying on of hands resurrection of the dead on and on year after year after year laying the foundation and you wonder why nothing ever gets built so the foundation is vital but the foundation we need to move on from the foundation therefore not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works faith towards God and so on so the first thing is to make sure we have the right foundation if there is no growth in your life as we talked last week then the first thing to check is how's my foundation because if the foundation is bad the building is not going to happen one of the problems with the foundation is that you have to get to the rock which is Christ now you remember in the book of Nehemiah they rebuilt the temple and we should look at a couple of pictures of that in Matthew in Luke chapter 21 on Sunday these massive rocks that were formed the basis the foundation of that of that great building but after the first temple had been destroyed Ezra and Nehemiah Zerubbabel they go back to rebuild the temple and to rebuild the city and I think it's in chapter 2 of Nehemiah it says that the workers were exhausted because there was much rubble in other words what was happening was in order to begin to rebuild the rubbish had to be removed first in order to get down to a solid foundation you can't build on the rubber or the rubbish you can't build on you have to get down to a solid foundation now here's the problem many Christians get saved in different situations and there is no foundation or there is a terrible foundation it's bad and we said well that's great we'll just start building on that no it's going to keep giving problems and I've seen Christians who spend their lives not getting beyond these basics because they're trying to build on the rotten foundation when we extended that the the area to on the other side which was on the on the porch on the outside the the building inspector forced us to dig up the old foundation and it was an amazing foundation I have pictures like pieces of concrete this size it was a foundation second to none the foundation that's there now is weaker than the one that was there before but they were not satisfied until we had laid a proper foundation according to their specifications and the principle is right the practice wasn't so great in this case because it took us weeks to get rid of the old foundation which was perfectly sound but generally we want to build in our lives on suspect stuff and we wonder why things begin to fall apart at a later stage so the foundation must be solid the foundation must be on clean bedrock must be on Christ there cannot be old traditions old habits old ideas old teachings that are not godly teachings that are in the way and sometimes it takes a long time to get rid of that of that all of that stuff in order to get down to a solid foundation and it's interesting Paul says concerning churches he says I will not build on another man's foundation in Book of Romans I will not build on another man's foundation and other words Paul is saying it's very hard to build on a church which has already been established by someone else and the foundation is suspect because you spend your lifetime trying to undo the bad workmanship of the past in order to lay a new foundation Paul says I'd rather go and start afresh and so he says I'm not preaching in the places where the gospel is being preached I'm going to go to places where the gospel hasn't been preached where people are uncontaminated by traditions and habits and ideas and doctrines that are not godly doctrines so the foundation is absolutely essential and we must have that foundation so that we can move on all right now the next thing is the principle so the milk and the foundation are the same idea and then there are principles and here he calls it the elementary principles in fact you'll see principles is in italics so the the Greek only has the word elementary or beginnings you see in the previous verse sorry this 12 chapter 5 is 12 although by this time you ought to be teachers need someone to teach you again the first principles the first principles so what then is a principle a principle is not the head of a school it's not pal it's PR or PLE a principle is a fundamental and every discipline every area of study or of knowledge or of skill in this world has principles and there are two principles I'm going to use as an example the first is and and and a principle really is the is the lowest level that you can break something down to just like the

milk is the simplest and yet complete form of nutrition so the principles is when you boil something down to its very fundamental what is what are the fundamentals of language of the English language what is what is the principle that underlies the English language a b c d that's about as much as I know 26 letters every philosophical book every book of prose and of poetry all the books that fill the libraries all over the world are based on only 26 letters if you don't know those letters I don't know how they teach kids these days I don't you know everything seems to change but I remember when I first went to school the first thing on the head top of the blackboard was a b c d except the last letter was Z not Z first thing you're going to learn now I think they teach kids to read without ABC anymore but at some stage you're going to know the principles you know got to know what an a is you're gonna know how an a sounds you need to know how you can use an a and eventually you learn what a vowel is and and how these things fit together but all of the English language and and it's a very rich language and we have a long history hundreds and hundreds of years of Shakespeare and and another great writers but it's all those same 26 letters not nothing's different if you know those 26 letters and you can put them together you can read and you can write and so that's where it begins and everything is built on that now obviously it's gonna be crazy you go to grade one or whatever you go to when you start these days K or pre-k it's all so complicated these days but you you go your first year and they teach you a b c d and then the next year you go back they teach you a b c d and 12 years later you're in grade 12 a b c d no obviously you need to learn the principles right at the beginning and once you know the principles you now begin to string those letters together in in in two two or three letter words you begin to read books that have three letter words then you learn to read books that have four letter words and five letter words until eventually you can read books that have complicated words and even read books that have words you don't understand but because you know a b c d you can spell it out you can figure out more or less how to pronounce it it's not always that easy and and you can often figure out what the word means even though you don't know the word if you have the foundation if you have the basic principles the same is true of math the basic principle of math is 1 plus 1 equals 2 and everything runs from that multiplication isn't is just a development of that principle that 1 plus 1 equals 2 division is a development of that principle subtraction is a development of that principle algebra works on that principle the the method they use to shoot a rocket up into space and to make contact with the with the what do they call the thing up there where they all live the space station I mean it blows my mind when you consider the speed at which the earth is running is rotating and they send this thing up and it's flying at thousands and thousands of miles an hour even that boggles my mind and somehow two days later they're able to dock perfectly with within within an eighth of an inch to the space station and they're able to transfer and all of that kind of thing but what is that all run on it all runs on 1 plus 1 equals 2 basic math that then becomes highly elevated and you need computers to make the calculation but it still works on the same basic principle computers work on the same principle except it's not 1 plus 1 it's 1 and a 0 and so all of what you see on your computer the beautiful graphics that you can see the videos the movies the sound everything it's all made up of just two things right Jason ones and zeros that's all that's all comes from those now if you if you if you don't have a zero but you don't have any zeros you've got nothing you don't have any ones you have nothing but you put those two things together and you know how to put them together you have the most amazing technology those are the principles and those principles never change they never change 1 plus 1 never becomes 3 except if you're a politician but if you're not it's always 1 plus 1 equals 2 those principles form the basis of that knowledge and so you can you can go to anything that you that you like any field of of knowledge and there are basic principles that once you understand them you can figure the rest out or not necessarily figure it out but it's built on those on that foundation on those basics now the scriptures are exactly the same and I know we've spoken about this before some time ago in a different context but the scriptures are exactly the same when we don't

understand the principles of the Word of God we end up with all sorts of problems now what are the principles that underlie the Word of God let's go to the Old Testament remember the New Testament is built on the Old Testament what is the heart of the Old Testament the Ten Commandments the Ten Commandments now remember they came to Jesus and they said to Jesus what is the greatest of the Ten Commandments trying to to trick him trying to get him into into a corner and what did Jesus say love the Lord and love your neighbor then he said on these two hang all of the law and the commandments not just the Ten Commandments of the law but the other commandments 613 rules and laws hang on these two things love God love your neighbor and this is how it works if you look at the Ten Commandments the first Commandments deal with my relationship with God you shall not have other gods before me you shall not have idols you shall not take the Lord's name in vain if I love him I will not have other gods I will not make idols and worship things that are not to God I will not use his name in vain so how many commands are there is really only one if I love him the other things fall in place automatically the last six commands deal with my relationship with my neighbor shall not steal shan't have his wife and so on and so forth bearing false witness against him same thing applies what is the principle that underlie those six commandments love your neighbor as yourself if I love my neighbor I will not steal from him I will not take his wife I will not bear false witness against him I will not kill him and so on so do I have to know the Ten Commandments really actually not I just need to know the two and it's not a matter of knowing them I need to live them and if I live those two commandments I will automatically love the Ten Commandments and that's why in the New Testament we're not taught the Ten Commandments we've taught the one command love the Lord and he said what I thought you said there were two now I'm saying there's only one well in fact there is only one why do I love my neighbor because I love the Lord so even the command to love my neighbor flows from loving God if I love him I will seek my neighbor's best interest so the whole of the Bible comes down to one principle loving God now obviously we know there's a lot more to it than that we and and remember that these are fundamentals from which we now build and we we move on to deeper stuff and bigger stuff and and higher stuff but once you get the principle the rest becomes easy when you don't get the principle it becomes incredibly hard you see if if you don't if you don't know ABCD and I'm a little out of my depth here because I know they're different ways of teaching kids to read these days you recognize words are not letters but if you don't know the ABCD you can learn that that word is therefore even though you can't spell it out or whatever whatever they call it the next word is leaving because you've learned that shape of word means leaving but you see you have to now learn thousands of words in order to be able to read but if you know the fundamentals of ABCD you can look and you can say t-h-e-r-e-f-o there therefore you don't have to know every word because you know the principles now remember what the Jews did because they didn't know the principle of loving the Lord because they they rejected that it didn't understand that they end up not with 613 but with thousands and thousands and thousands of commands they end up with a Talmud which is which is literally that many like the Encyclopedia Britannica on you on your shelf of commands if this happens then this you need to do this if this happens you have to do that it goes on and on and on and on why because they don't have the principles now you have to make millions of rules in order to live your life and fuck it becomes easy if you if you just remember the principle people say well you know it's a permissible for me to do this whatever well ask the question does it reflect my love for God is a permissible for a Christian to chew gum now we'll kill two birds with one stone if you chew gum and you throw it down on the parking lot or on the pavers outside like some people do are you loving your neighbor no because some of your neighbors like me like things clean and get upset when you walk and there's just gum everywhere so should a Christian chew gum actually no no no this is an extreme example you know as long as you stick the gum behind your ear or dispose of it some other way that's fine but you can you can see and that's obviously a

ridiculous example but every question that you have to that you ask you can boil it down to how does this affect my relationship with God does it reflect that I love him or am I loving this thing more than I love him how does it affect my relationship with my husband with my wife with my children with my with other brothers and sisters and and so you say well you know it's quite permissible for me to do something but it hurts your neighbor can you see that it becomes pretty easy to figure things out once you know the principles once you can apply those principles and so what he is now saying is that these things that we're going to talk about in the next few weeks become these fundamental principles and so yes it all goes back to loving the Lord loving your neighbor but now as a Christian because you'll see he speaks about the elementary principles of Christ what is it that that that that it takes to be a real Christian what is the what are the fundamentals and the same way as these other principles flow right through you can never get away from ABCD you can never get away from 1 plus 1 equals 2 you can never get away from these principles once you've laid them you don't really relay them but once you've laid them their presence is always visible in what you do you you can't lay a a square foundation and build around building it the the foundation determines the shape of the building and so as we lay that foundation those principles continue to have an effect now let me just draw to a close by saying we you know what one of these is doctrinal baptisms in verse 2 the doctrinal baptisms so we only get baptized once do we need to keep being baptized no we don't keep being baptized we're baptized once but there's a principle behind baptism what is the principle the principle is death burial and resurrection and so I'm dead I'm burying my old life I'm coming out of the water symbolic obviously of a new life in Christ but that principle of death burial and resurrection is an ongoing principle you can never get away from that and even if you've been a Christian a hundred years you still have to die to yourself you still have to keep burying your old way of doing things that you might walk in a Christ-pleasing way and so the principle applies and continues to go through through the rest of your life so again let me challenge you to to inspect the building how is the building we challenged you last week to say well am I growing the question now is is the building sound is it solid or are there cracks how is the foundation is the foundation good if it is good are you building or is the foundation just lying there we've seen around town from time to time somebody begins to build a building they lay a foundation and they never have them but they don't have the money to to finish building or what something goes wrong and the foundation just lies there well it's it's no good a foundation on its own has no value whatsoever when I walk up in the Angeles forest there are many many places where people used to have houses that burned down in the various fires but the foundation is still there and and the fireplace is still there because it's pulled out of stone or brick but the foundation is no good it has no value whatsoever unless there's a building on that foundation and so even if you look at your life you say my foundation is good the question is when are you going to start building you need to start building on that foundation so father we pray that you would help us to examine our own lives Lord and as much as we from time to time maybe in an informal way look at our houses and at the buildings around us to make sure that they're not falling down Lord help us to do an inspection of our house that we're building in Christ and Lord if there are cracks and if there is evidence that the foundation is suspect help us Lord to do the necessary work to shore up that foundation to fix it that we might be on the solid foundation and so Lord I pray that you'd help us to also just examine that we're not building on rubble but that we're building on the rock Christ that we're not building on traditions and old ideas that are not godly and not biblical so Lord I pray that you'd help us to understand help us Lord to have these things cemented into our lives help us Lord to understand and grasp these principles Lord that they may become the things that govern our lives that we don't have to keep learning new things all the time in order to make new decisions but Lord because we are grounded in the principles the decision-making process becomes easy and so we pray for your help we pray in Jesus name Lord that we may grow up individually and corporately as that house of

God that you are able to inhabit and that you are pleased with we ask this in Jesus name go with us we pray keep us and protect us bring us together again on Sunday we pray

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