

Interior Design and You

BY ALLYSON BYRD

Allyson Byrd has written several articles for us in the past. She is now away at college, but she has submitted another excellent article. In this, this wise young lady relates her studies in Interior Design to one's life as a Christian; there is a lot to apply here for all of us. Thank you, Allyson!
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Since I am studying Interior Design this semester, one of my Interior Design classes challenged me to think about how Christ is related to Interior Design. The first thing I thought about was how Interior Design deals with a lot of materialistic things such as decorating and remodeling homes or companies, but Jesus tells us in Colossians 3:2 to "set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth." So I was not exactly sure how I would be able to link the two.

As I pondered the question more, I thought about the topics I have been learning about in class. The main three we have discussed so far are the following: (1) designing a building starts with a strong foundation to build on; (2) exact details/measurements are essential; and (3) the master design is only achieved by completing the job fully.

Christianity is like this in many ways.

Having a *strong foundation* in Christ allows us to set an example to the world and be the light of the world. As it states in Matthew 5:16, "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." In order to be the light of the world, we need to have a strong foundation in Christ first. We need to actually believe what He says in the Bible and have a passion for serving Him. This will show in our actions and the way we live our lives.

Christ makes building a foundation in Him very simple because He is a firm foundation to begin with. We know this about Christ because Isaiah 28:16 says "Therefore thus says the Lord GOD,

Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, a costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed.

Christ is the costly cornerstone who gave up His life for us and this allows us to count on Him. This is comforting to me because when I am going through a difficult period of time, I know I can bring it back to God and He will help me. Along with difficult times are times when things are going very well, and even during these moments I know I can acknowledge God's part in it and be grateful to Him. When things are going right, it is easy to forget about being grateful to God for those times. Usually we think of leaning on God during difficult times because He is bigger than us and viewed as a comforter. While all this is true, God is the source of everything good throughout our lives. We can lean on Him during these times as well by thanking and praising Him.

My professors often stress that we are not to cut corners in Interior Design. Even if you are only 1/16 of an inch off on a measurement, it can throw off the entire project and will ultimately lead to a faulty and unstable building. Sometimes we think in our minds, “well I can follow Jesus’ commands *somewhat* and be okay.”

Unfortunately, I’ve found myself thinking this way in the past, and it is faulty because we need to follow all of Jesus’ commands exactly the way He tells us to in order to spend eternity with Him. In Matthew 28:20 Jesus says, “teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” As this verse discusses commands, it states that we must do “all” of them, not some of them, halfway. For me, this sometimes causes anxiety because it is overwhelming to try to follow each and every commandment all the time. But, if we remember that we will make mistakes and it will take lots of time to train ourselves to follow the commands then it is possible to achieve if we choose something to work on each day.

The master design of a building is what everyone on the job refers to in order to complete the design. Being perfect and getting things exactly the way they should be is the basis of design. But that does not allow for any grace. However, in our Christian walk, we strive for perfection, but the love and grace from Jesus is there to hold us up when we do not get it perfect; because we will not be perfect.

The only way to “be perfect” is through Jesus because He is true perfection. He helps us clean up our lives and fix the mistakes we have made. I Corinthians 3:10-11 it says, ...according to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

This verse really speaks to how Jesus is the one who laid that perfect foundation for us to build our lives on and serve Him. No one else will be able to build something like that, which is why Jesus is our master builder and designer of our lives.

It is possible to find ways that Interior Design and Christ are related. My challenge to you is to think about a hobby and/or a career you have and find how it relates to Christ. It will help you bring everything back to God and live a more Christ-centered life.