

Paul says: to the weak, I told of my weakness to win the weak. I have been willing to share about all of my ugliness to all people so that even by that I might connect with some and bring them to Jesus. We don't brag about our failings, but we are willing to share them to help others.

God builds His Church by having His broken people connect with other broken people.

Usually, we stick with people we like, or *are* like, or know. But Jesus calls His followers to connect with others, outside the Church. We build relationships with the annoying people, the irritable, the jerks.

**PP#15:** *First brick image from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lego\\_Duplo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lego_Duplo)*

[Show again the partial structure built with Quatros or Duplos. Point to the added brick.]

This brick is you. See how you are connected into the whole of the Church? But this open end here, this is a way for you to connect with someone outside the church. Each of us has a circle of influence, people we connect with. God calls for each of us to be the connection between those people, and God's Church. You are the connection point for others into God's household. You connect them to Jesus' passionate love for them.

[Show two Lego pieces discovered in the parking lot.]

Here are two damaged Lego pieces. One I found in the school parking lot last month. The other Josh Sarver found in the brush along the church parking lot. Both are scuffed, and have been driven over. One is a flat piece, the other a mini-figure, missing his head. I almost threw them away. But you know what? This damaged Lego person still connects to this squashed Lego brick. And I thought, what an amazing example of this Biblical truth! We may be damaged, but we can still offer connection to other damaged people!

Today, over at Faith Lutheran at Noon, they're hosting a grief support group for families who have experienced the death of a child, both before birth and after. It's called Lochlan's Hope. It was started by the Lochlan family in response to their four-month-old son's death. Now, they are reaching out to others who also experience the untouchable grief of having a child die. You're invited.

Scuffed piece connected to scarred piece.

**PP#16:** Building Beauty with Broken Bricks

1. You are broken
2. God loves and chooses broken people
3. God builds with broken people
4. We are called to build with broken people

You are broken. It's OK. God loves you and chooses you just the way you are. And God chooses to build with you and through you. You are the connection that other people can have to God's love.

If you have not experienced this love in your life, I extend an invitation, a connection, to you. During the closing song, I invite you to come up and pray with one of the prayer team and invite Jesus into your life. Come up to the front pew here, and someone will pray with you.

If you want to reconnect to Jesus, and make that connection stronger, come up and pray.

If you feel the calling of Jesus to make a connection with someone, and you're finding it difficult, you can also come up, and we'll pray for you: for boldness, for opportunity.

And if you want to pray for someone you know who is struggling with pain and brokenness, come on up. We'll pray specifically for that person.