



Remodel the Correct Way

Adapted from “X-Factor” series by Scott Erickson.

Home renovations have many benefits. However, it takes commitment to see the project through to completion. Here are a few suggestions to help one accomplish a successful project from an article “Contractor Tips: Top 10 Home Remodeling Don’ts.”

1. Don't delay decisions. If you want your remodel to go well, the best thing to do is make every single decision before work starts. A good builder can talk you through the list of situations that might come up on your job, but decisions about situations aren't usually what causes delays.

Instead, most of the issues are related to decisions about things like paint, trim and faucet selection. These may seem small, but when your faucet is two weeks late, plumbers have to be rescheduled and the medicine cabinet door hits the faucet when it's installed, you'll see how something small can balloon into a week's delay on a five-week project.

2. Don't change your mind (too much). Even though it's inevitable that you'll change your mind about something on your project, know this: Every time you change your mind, it'll result in a change order. Although the change may seem minor, there are always added costs — even if it's only the time spent discussing the change.

3. Don't buy your own materials. It seems like an obvious way to save money — a builder is going to mark up the cost of materials and pass that added cost on to you. That's true, but the builder may get a better price than you to begin with, meaning that even after markup, you'll pay the same price.

4. Don't put lipstick on a pig. Though a builder will rarely come right out and say this, some houses should be knocked down rather than have money put into them to fix them up.

5. Don't work without a contingency fund. If you find out that the work you wanted to do costs more than you expected or budgeted, you're in good company. It's almost unheard of that a person sets a realistic budget for a project.

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6. Don't let kids and pets get in the way. Though the people working in your home will often try to accommodate your pets and kids, they shouldn't have to — it's just not safe to have children or animals around construction.

7. Don't live in the home. Most people ignore this rule, and for good reason. Remodeling is expensive, and moving out just adds to the cost.

8. Don't be a distraction. It may sound harsh, but every minute someone working on your house spends talking to you, they are not working on your house.

9. Don't ignore what the house wants. Can an ultramodern kitchen in a Victorian brownstone work? Absolutely, but make sure you can pull it off. This is not to say a house can't evolve with the times. There are no hard and fast rules — just get to know your house, live in it and do your research before you pull out the sledgehammer.

10. Don't work without a design. Some projects require an architect, some an interior designer, and sometimes a talented builder will get your aesthetic and help you come up with a good plan.

Whatever you do, don't start a remodel without a detailed floor plan. A lot of elements interact in a space — put them all on paper and you'll catch problems before they are built. You may be able to build a functional space without a plan, but if you want a functional *and* beautiful space, hire a designer.¹

If this is good practical advice for the home, what type of advice would God give for us to remodel our spiritual home?

¹ Kenny Grono, "Contractor Tips: Top 10 Home Remodeling Don'ts," Houzz, August 29, 2014, <https://www.houzz.com/ideabooks/3839541/list/contractor-tips-top-10-home-remodeling-donts> (accessed July 21, 2017).

COURAGE

C1: Describe your most treasured possession. What makes it your most treasured possession?

C2: For the believer in Christ, we are either Christ's or we are not. Read and answer the following.

1 Peter 2:9 (ESV) But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

- From these scriptures, what can you glean about being God's possession?

- What does the term "God's special possession" mean to you?

C3: When you invite Christ into your life, He will begin like a contractor to remodel your heart and life. He's going to remove walls and things that hold His wonderful presence back.

- Take 15 minutes to reflect on your life. What has God remodeled in your life over the years? How did you feel during the remodel phase of your life? Is there anything in your life now that needs to be remodeled? What is it?

STRENGTH

S1: Jesus goes into the hidden places of our lives and removes debris, fears, appetites, and replaces them with declarations of His Word and wisdom. Read and answer the following.

Exodus 20:4–6 (ESV)

- From these verses, what are the two focuses of worship?
- On a scale of 1-4 with 1 being very well and 4 not very well, rate yourself on how well you focus on your worship?

S2: Scripture teaches us God is a jealous God. Read and answer the following.

Exodus 20:4 (ESV)

Matthew 22:30–40 (ESV)

John 4:23–24 (ESV)

- From these verses, what do you glean God wants from us?
- How does God demand we worship Him?

S3: In the Old Testament, God delivers His people from Egypt's bondage. But, the second generation of people had forgotten and began to be disloyal to the Lord. Read and answer the following.

Exodus 20:5 (ESV)

- Why should this verse be obeyed?
- In life, is there ever a proper jealousy? Where?

Deuteronomy 32:16–19 (ESV)

- What is an idol?
- From the verses, what type of idols are worshipped today?
- On a scale from 1-4 with 1 being very well and 4 being not well, rate yourself on how free from idols you are today?
- Write out an action plan on what you can do to get rid of idols in the next 30 days?

ENDURANCE

E1: The way you worship and serve God will dramatically affect your family and descendants. Read and answer the following.

Exodus 20:5–6 (ESV)

Proverbs 20:7 (ESV)

- What will happen to you and your family when you honor and worship God?
- On a scale of 1-4 with 1 being very well and 4 being not well, rate yourself on how well you honor God?
- Write out a plan on how you can improve the way you honor God?

E2: God demands our loyalty given to Him. Read and answer the following.

Colossians 1:12–15 (ESV)

Hebrews 11:24–27 (ESV)

- From these verses, what type of devotion to God can you discover?
- On a scale of 1-4 with 1 being very well and 4 being not well, rate yourself on how well you are loyal to God?
- Write out a plan on how you can improve the way you are loyal to God?

E3: Dads have great and lasting impacts upon their families. When you go to the doctor, you are asked:

- Any lung problems in your parents/grandparents?
- Any heart problems in your family?
- Any high blood pressure?
- Any cancer in your family?
- Any depression?

Read and answer the following.

2 Chronicles 26:4–5 (ESV)

2 Chronicles 26:16 (ESV)

2 Chronicles 27:2 (ESV)

2 Chronicles 28:1–3 (ESV)

- What can you glean from these verses about the influence of a parent?
- On a scale of 1-4 with 1 being very well and 4 being not well, rate yourself on how well you are godly?
- Write out a plan on how can you improve the godliness in your life?
- What do you see as a Biblical plan to make God's blessings flow to your family?