

The Temple of God

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1 Corinthians 3:16-23

- 2 Cor. 6:16 “And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? ...”
- Eph 2:19-22 “... in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? ~ 1 Cor. 3:16

- The Corinthians needed to be reminded... Cf. Heb. 5:11
- Jn. 17:16 – Christ's disciples are not of the world, just as He is not of the world & Jn. 18:36 – nor His kingdom!
- 2 Pet. 1:2-4 “Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord...”
- Cf. Hos. 4:6 “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.”

If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are. ~ 1 Cor. 3:17

- **A third & final cleansing of His temple! (Cf. Jn. 2:14-15; Mat. 21:12/Mk. 11:15).**
- Rom. 11:22 “Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.”
 - People cannot destroy the temple, but they can defile it!
 - 1 Cor. 1:10-13; Rom. 16:17 – Divisions & offenses.
 - 1 Cor. 3:1-3 – Carnality / Gal. 5:19-21 – The works of the flesh.
 - 1 Cor. 3:12 / Gal. 5:22-23 – Works arising of the fruit of the Spirit are “gold, silver & precious stones!”
 - Rom. 8:6 “For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.”

- 1 Cor. 5:1-2 – Unopposed, implicitly accepted error.
- 1 Cor. 6:1-8 – Failure of godly judgment (cf. Heb. 5:14)
- 1 Cor. 6:15-20 – Corrupted Christianity (2 Pet. 2:2-3).
- 1 Pet. 1:7 – Gold and silver result from refining ore; Rev. 3:18 – gold refined in the fire is from Christ!
- 1 Cor. 3:18-20 “Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise” (in the eyes of the world! Cf. 1 Cor. 1:18-31). **No common ground between the “wisdom of this world” and the “foolishness of God.”**
- Jas. 1:5 “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

The wise understand the spiritual nature of the temple, that “the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands” ~ Acts 7:48-50; 17:24

- 1 Pet. 2:5 – Christians are “as living stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”
- Rom. 8:14 – That those who are led by the Spirit are God's children.
- Rom. 8:26-27 – Prayers of the saints are aided by the Holy Spirit, who also intercedes for us.
- Rom. 8:28 – Because of these things, “all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose”
- Rom. 8:37-39 “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”

Decision...

- The church is the temple of God – the closest we can come to paradise on earth!
- Christians are the living stones that compose the temple, God's spiritual house – 1 Pet. 2:5
- People must be purified in order to belong to be living stones in the temple of God – 1 Pet. 1:22-23