

# **Assembled**

**8-8-21**

1 Corinthians 3:16–17 (ESV)

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? <sup>17</sup> If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

**The OT temple is the physical picture of the true spiritual temple to come. Jesus spoke of his earthly body as the "temple". HIS people, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, are those who individually and collectively make up God's temple. Paul challenges the church to recognize the fact that they together are the spiritual temple of God, because the Spirit of God dwells in them. This is how God builds HIS church HIS true Temple.**

Ephesians 2:22 (ESV)

In (Jesus) you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

**Therefore, anyone who tries to destroy God's church, God will destroy. Also, any leader, pastor, or minister who builds God's temple or church in a shoddy way deserves the destruction of his doctrine and false testimony. The reason is clear: God's temple is holy, sacred, set apart. God in his justice and holiness cannot allow HIS holy work to be damaged without bringing retribution. Here is a fitting warning to every Christian minister and worker. This is necessary because "the church" stands apart from the world as a witness to Christ. The world attempts to prove the church as foolish while God uses the church to prove the world foolish.**

1 Corinthians 3:19–20 (ESV)

<sup>19</sup> For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness,” <sup>20</sup> and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.”

**The contrast of the church and the world are highlighted when Paul called on the church at Corinth to deal with a grievous sin committed by one of its members.**

1 Corinthians 5:4–5 (ESV)

<sup>4</sup> When you (the church) are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, <sup>5</sup> you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

**The man is delivered to Satan by putting him out of the church. Paul calls some church members unrighteous because their behavior is indistinguishable from the unbelieving world. Therefore, based on their actions they are treated the same as unbelievers. As difficult as this is, we must differentiate between those embracing the lost world and those embracing the saving grace of God.**

1 Corinthians 6:9–11 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? ... <sup>11</sup> And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

**The members of the church like all the world were hopeless and lost. Coming to Christ is the only difference between us and the rest of the world. Therefore, being washed we now are the Temple of God. God has reconciled mankind to HIMSELF and to each other through Jesus Christ.**

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (ESV)

<sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, <sup>20</sup>for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

**Individually and corporately, we belong to Jesus Christ. HE paid a high price for us; HE died in our place for our sins. Therefore, in response we glorify God in our bodies. HE loved us so we love HIM back!**

**This is the mystery fulfilled.** The Temple was not meant to be a physical place where God dwelt and where people came to worship. The OT Temple was a picture of the spirituality of the eternal relationship with God through Christ with HIS people continuously offering praise to HIM. There will not be any physical Temple in heaven!

Revelation 21:22–23 (ESV)

<sup>22</sup>And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup>And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

## **We have an eternal union with God through Christ. Why?**

John 3:16 (ESV)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.