

Sermon Notes



1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Big Idea: Live like you are God's Temple!

I. God's Temple- Access to the Divine (1 Cor. 3:16)

"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?"

1 Corinthians 6:19- Individually

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you."

I. God's Temple- Access to the Divine (1 Cor. 3:16)

"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?"

Ephesians 2:19b-22

"...household of God, **20** built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, **21** in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. **22** In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit."

Colossians 1:27

“... to make known... the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

II. God’s Temple- Addressing the Tensions (1 Corinthians 3:17-23)

A. Defilement (1 Corinthians 3:17)

“If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him. For God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple.”

Revelation 2:15-16- Church at Pergamum

15 So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. **16** Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth.

B. Overinflated (1 Corinthians 3:18-20)

18 Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. **19** For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness,” **20** and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.”

C. Undervalued (1 Corinthians 3:21-23)

21 So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, and you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.”

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Study Guide



1 Corinthians 3:16-23

1. Read 1 Corinthians 3:16.

What does it mean to you that “you”, plural, as a church are the Temple of God? In fact, in Ephesians 2:21 it says, “being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.” How does it impact your attitude and actions to think that collectively we represent the divine dwelling place of God? Discuss.

2. Read 1 Corinthians 3:17.

According to the context in Corinth, how were they ‘destroying’ the church? How do we as churches at times misrepresent Christ and destroy or defile the dwelling place of God? Discuss.

3. Read 1 Corinthians 3:18-20.

How were people within the church being overinflated? What does our human pride and worldly wisdom affect church life and our impact? Discuss.

4. Read 1 Corinthians 4:21-23.

Notice that when you boast in men, you undervalue your own identity in Christ. All things are yours! Discuss how in Christ, all these are yours:

-human leaders

-world

-life

-death

-present

-future

How does it help you to know that all this is ours in Christ?

Application

Take a few minutes to pray quietly and ask God how you are doing as the 'temple' of God? Is there anything God is prompting you to do or change?