

"THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD"
2 CORINTHIANS 6:11-7:1

INTRO: What comes to your mind when you think of the word "TEMPLE?" No doubt you think of some great edifice established by some religious order for ritualistic activities. (THE MORMON TABERACLE). To a degree that is correct, but **as a believer in Jesus Christ, you are a temple. YOU ARE THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD!** Does that sound AWESOME to you? It should. In fact, it should cause you to PAUSE AND THINK WHAT ALL IT INVOLVES. That is what we are going to discuss in the sermon today. As a Christian, **YOU ARE THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD! HOW MUST YOU TAKE CARE OF GOD'S TEMPLE?**
QUESTION: WHAT IS A TEMPLE? **"A TEMPLE IS A BUILDING RESERVED FOR RELIGIOUS RITUALS AND ACTIVITIES SUCH AS PRAYER AND WORSHIP."**

OBSERVATION: Various religions of the world construct great temples: Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Islam, Judaism, Bahaism, etc. Even some Christian church buildings are called "Temples."

THE UNIQUENESS OF BIBLICAL TEACHING: SOUND BIBLICAL TEACHING indicates that the TEMPLE OF GOD relates to the INDIVIDUAL BELIEVER IN CHRIST.

- 1) According to Biblical Truth, God's Temple is the Body of each Christian
-1 Corinthians 6:19,20
- 2) According to Biblical Truth, individual believers, united in the Local Church of Jesus Christ, make up God's Temple on Earth – 1 Corinthians 3:16,17
- 3) According to Biblical Truth, as a true believer in Christ, YOU are the TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD – 2 Corinthians 6:16

RESPECTING THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD

I. RESPECTING THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD IS A MATTER OF PRAISE

-WHAT AN AWESOME THING IT IS TO CONSIDER THAT GOD LIVES IN US!

- A. This Reveals God's Personal Desire for a Relationship with Believers.
- B. This Reveals God's Personal Desire to Remain with Believers.

OUR RESPONSE: Praise God that He is not some far-fetched deity that is untouchable, but rather the Creator of the Universe Who resides right in us.

II. RESPECTING THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD IS A MATTER OF PROTECTION

-OUR RESPONSIBILITY IS TO PROTECT GOD'S TEMPLE FROM WORLDLY ASSOCIATIONS BECAUSE THAT WHICH IS OF GOD HAS NO INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WITH THAT WHICH IS GODLESS AND SINFUL...."BE NOT UNEQUALLY YOKED."

NOTE: This teaches that BELIEVERS IN CHRIST, AS GOD'S TEMPLES, should not unite in common purpose, or be complicit with unbelievers or any sinful ways. (Note how the text teaches this fact...OBSERVE THE TEXT – Vss. 14-16a)

- A. There is no Fellowship with Righteousness and Unrighteousness.
- B. There is no Communion with Light and Darkness.
- C. There is no Comfort with Christ and Belial (Satan).
- D. There is no Part with a Believer and an Infidel.
- E. There is no Agreement between God and Idols.

III. RESPECTING THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD IS A MATTER OF PROMOTION

-BELIEVERS ARE TO PROMOTE SEPARATION FROM SINFUL WAYS, SPIRITUAL CLEANSING AND HOLY LIVING IN A DETERMINED AND DEFINITE WAY.

- A. By "COMING OUT" from all forms of Sin and Unrighteous ways – 6:17
 1. Romans 12:1,2
 2. 1 Thessalonians 5:22
 3. 2 Timothy 2:22

- B. By “CLEANSING OURSELVES” from all Sin – 7:1a.
 - 1. Confessing Known Sin
 - 2. Repenting from Known Sin
- C. By “CLAIMING” Holiness out of Respect to God – 7:1b.
 - 1. Through Obedience to the Word of God
 - 2. Through Yielding to the Holy Spirit of God
 - 3. Through Maintaining Prayer with God

THE RESULT OF PROPERLY CARING FOR GOD’S TEMPLE
(YOUR BODY)

6:18

- 1. An Intimate Relationship with God on a moment-by-moment basis.*
- 2. A Regular Experience of the Fulness of the Elements of True Christian Living*
- 3. A Sense of the Presence of God*
- 4. An Attitude of True Worship of God*