

## Walk with Me! Pt 3

### 1 Corinthians 3:9-11

- Earlier we talked about **“who we are”** (God’s children), and **“why we’re here”** (to worship God), now we are going to look at **“what we are”** (His church) the body of Christ who represents our Lord on earth. We have already touched on this a little in both of the previous lessons but this week we’ll delve deep into what scripture has to say about the role of the church in the world, and in the lives of the believer, so take out your note taking materials it’s going to be good.
- When it comes to the church the Greek word is **“Ekklesia”** which means called out ones, this is important because in Western society when people hear the word church they don’t necessary think of people they think of a building. Growing up the church building took on this mystical power that as long as you were in there, bad things shouldn’t be said, thought or take place, for within these four walls your protected therefore what occurs in the world don’t happen here.
- Tell that to all those around the world who’ve been dragged out of service and imprisoned, had service interrupted by gunfire, the church building bombed or burned to the ground sometimes while members are still inside, what I didn’t know was it was never the building that made the church special it was always the people who worshipped inside of it > **Acts 17:22-24** Paul is speaking with men who are trying to figure out **“Where did I come from” “Why am I here” “Where am I going”** and so they’d gather at a place called **“Mars Hill”** and debate the issue.
- Science attempts to answer the first question, and philosophy wrestles with the second, but only the Christian faith have a satisfactory answer for all three. So every kind of thinking person of that day from Atheist, Agnostic, to Stoic, would gather and wrestle among themselves about whether their view is right or wrong. Paul comes along and boldly declares they are all wrong, for **“in the beginning God made the world and everything in it, and He is Lord of all that He has made, from heaven and earth, and He doesn’t dwell in temples made with hands”**.
- This meant that **“God is too great to be housed in man-made temples, but He is not too distant not to be concerned about man’s needs”**. For God is a God Who is near and not afar, man wants to think God is unconcerned about what we do and what happens to us but he is wrong! This is what makes the cross so important for without it God’s Spirit could never dwell within broken vessels like ourselves, but because Jesus died and Rose again, now instead of God dwelling in man made temples He now lives within Me and you the church, the body of Christ.

- Why is that so important? **Jn 15:26-27**- says the Helper the Holy Spirit will come but only after the Lord Jesus has descended and then ascended into glory > **Jn 16:7**. Once that occurs **1Cor 3:9-11**, gets real interesting, as it begins by telling us that we are “God’s fellow workers” meaning we cannot work without Him > **Jn 15:5**- apart from God we can do nothing, but with God all things are possible > **Philip 4:19**. It doesn’t stop there, we are also called God’s field and God’s building, were His field because the work Paul did with God was to work on “God’s people”.
- It’s the picture of a farmer planting and watering the seeds, making sure they get what they need in order to grow to their full potential, and the blessing in all this is when the field is ripe not only does it bless the crop but the crop in turn blesses the farmer, as everyone benefits. Were His building because we are part of the whole of Christianity, the body of Christ the local assembly, and we all play a vital part in the plans that God has for us as His church.
- **1Cor 3:10-11**- it starts with the foundation, and as each section is finished another is in need of work, and each section is dependent upon the other for its stability, which is why those who the Lord uses must be careful in how they build upon their section. **V11** in the end its all suppose to point back to Jesus, because if it becomes about us, or someone else then we mess with the foundation, or another crucial part of the building and disrupt why God has placed it us here in the first place. Notice were called a “**worker, field, and a building**” each pointing to our role in the body, **1<sup>st</sup>** a **worker** is helping put something that is beneficial together for a purpose.
- **2<sup>nd</sup>** A **field** is in need of tending in order to either grow into something that will nourish or house others, and **3<sup>rd</sup>** a **building** is the illustration of **stability, security, safety**. We the church represent all three of these things, as we help others to benefit themselves and others, we tend to each other’s needs and hopefully grow into maturity so that we who once were in need ourselves now become needful, and finally a building, a structure where people can come and find stability, security, and safety, that is what the church is suppose to represent in the world.