

Ephesians 2:19-22 19Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Christians are true believers in whom God dwells and moves. **The end purpose of the church is to be a habitation, a dwelling place of God.**

Reminder- The temple was the dwelling place of God's presence. The priests were the ones who ministered inside that dwelling. Temple and Priesthood Always Go Together. You never had one without the other.

God has always required His people to provide Him with a dwelling place. He is a dwelling God, looking to live in the midst of His people. We must understand this about the Lord. He wants to be in our midst. That is an essential distinction we see at the beginning in the garden and in the age to come as well a major theme in scripture. **Revelation 21:3 (NKJV)** And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God [is] with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them [and be] their God.

- When God delivered the Israelites out of Egypt, brought them to Mt. Sinai and gave them His first covenant, one of the first things that He required of them was that they build Him a tabernacle. Moses tabernacle was the dwelling place of His manifest presence and the entire set up of the tabernacle revealed Gods heart for worship and worshippers. His Shekinah glory traveled with Israel all the way through the wilderness.
- His next dwelling place I like to call God's favorite in the Old Testament context because this is the the one He says He will rebuild in Amos 9:11 and is David's tabernacle. David, the man after God's own heart built something for the Lord that His Presence could rest upon. It was built upon the yielded heart of worshippers, not stones like the temple.

Next came Solomon's temple

- God gave David the plans for the temple and Solomon in the wisdom of God executed the plans **I Chronicles 28:19-20 (NKJV)** 19 “All [this,]” [said David,] “the LORD made me understand in writing, by [His] hand upon me, all the works of these plans.” 20 And David said to his son Solomon, “Be strong and of good courage, and do [it;] do not fear nor be dismayed, for the LORD God--my God--[will be] with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you, until you have finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.
- God gave the instructions to build the temple in a certain city of His choice-Jerusalem. Solomon constructed the most glorious, costly and elaborate building that has ever been built by humanity. This temple was eventually destroyed by Babylon but again after God in His mercy granted Israel a restoration from Babylon, one of their first assignments was to rebuild Him another temple.

God did not leave the decision about the dwelling place to His people. He alone determined the location, types of materials and the shape of the structure.

However, the Bible makes clear that these structures were only patterns of something infinitely more valuable. Everything in the tabernacles and temple pointed to Jesus Christ and pointed to His desire to dwell with us which preceded any desire we would have for God.

As long as God's people met the conditions, God honored them with His presence. That has how it has always been. The final temple of God, the one that all the others are just a preview and pattern of is made up of people. People are the most valuable creation in the universe. The temple of God has to be made of the most valuable material-not gold or silver or marble, but those made in His image.

When the New Testament says:

- “You are the temple of the Holy Spirit” (1 Cor 3:16; 6:19), “You are a royal priesthood” (1 Pet 2:5, 9; Rev 1:6) it is saying something radical:

God did not just move His presence—He redefined where the temple is and who the priests are. Understanding the full context of the temple and the priest lays the foundation for new covenant worship and the heart of God.

Pentecost

- In Acts 2 When the 120 were gathered in the upper room praying together in one accord it gives us a **beautiful picture of priests** standing and crying out to God for his presence to not fall upon a building but to fall upon a people.
- The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost is widely understood as the New Testament inauguration of the church mirroring the Old Testament inauguration of solomon's temple
- **Moses Tabernacle**- Leviticus 9:23-24 (NKJV) 23 And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of meeting, and came out and blessed the people. Then the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people, 24 and fire came out from before the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and the fat on the altar. When all the people saw [it,] they shouted and fell on their faces.
- **Solomon's Temple** 2 Chronicles 7:1 (NKJV) When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the temple.

Pentecost follows the same script because it is a dedication ceremony.

1.Wind = Presence of God, His Breath Filling the Temple

Acts 2:2 (NKJV) And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

- **Genesis 2** – God breathes into Adam to bring life
- **Ezekiel 37** – Breath fills living temples
- Hebrew ruach / Greek pneuma = wind, breath, Spirit
- God is breathing life by His Spirit, creating a living temple, not stone walls.

2. Fire = Priestly Consecration

Acts 2:3 (NKJV) Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and [one] sat upon each of them.

Fire in Scripture:

- Consumes sacrifices
- Marks priestly acceptance
- Symbolizes divine presence
- Fire did not rest on one altar It rested on each person
- Every believer is now a holy place, Every believer is now a consecrated priest

3. Tongues = Priestly Ministry Released

Acts 2:4 (NKJV) And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Priests were entrusted with: Declaring God's word, Teaching the lawAnd blessing the nations.

At Pentecost:

- God brought unity
- God's praise spills into the nations
- The Spirit enables proclamation

God birthed the church at Pentecost making us His temple, filling us with His Spirit and bringing us into His kingdom as priests and kings. **We are now responsible to partner with God and be co-laborers in building correctly.**

All of us are called to participate in the process of building

1 Corinthians 3:10-17-10According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let

each one take heed how he builds on it. 11For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. 15If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. 16Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

There are two kinds of buildings you can erect, those that will stand the test and those that will not, work that endures or work that is burned up.

- Our life's work will be tested on that Day. How you build and what you build with. What was Your personal contribution in the service of God's house. How did you love Jesus, how did you love His bride. Will it stand the test of fire?
- Every Christian is going to appear before the judgment seat of Christ to be judged for all the service that he/she has offered God. This is not a judgment of salvation or condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1). *This will not be concerning the destiny of our souls, but it will be concerning how we built our lives!*
- Every man's work will be tried by fire, if it stands the test, he will receive the reward, if it is burned up, he will lose his reward, but his soul will be saved.
- All of us should ask the question: **What type of material are we putting into the building?**
- Not quantity; quality Gold, silver and precious stone, compared to wood, hay and straw which are easily burned up.

Three requirements to withstand the fire (The-enduring works)

1. **Your Motive:** For God's glory (1 Cor. 10:31) *Break personal ambition-Live a life that brings Him glory.* All for His glory. Not what is in it for me. How will God receive glory through my choices.
2. **Your Obedience:** According to God's Word (Matt. 7:21–27) If you love me do what I say. Do the will of God, don't practice lawlessness
3. **Power:** The Holy Spirit (Rom. 15:18–19)- Only acceptable power worth mentioning is the power of the Holy Spirit flowing through us. Was it a work of the Flesh or a work of His Spirit?

1Corinthians 6:19-20 19Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Jesus Christ redeemed your body so that it might be a temple for His Spirit! We are warned to be careful that we do not defile or destroy the temple of God. Whether it is the collective temple or the individual temple, we are required to take care of it and allow nothing in that could defile. **We are to honor God and serve Him with our temple. We are made to worship Him spirit, soul and body.**

Jesus is the only cornerstone. *Ephesians 2:20*

The Bible describes Jesus as the cornerstone that His church would be built upon. **He is the foundation and He is the cornerstone.** Once the cornerstone was set in the building, it became the basis for determining every measurement in the remaining construction; everything was aligned to it. *As the cornerstone of the building of the church, Jesus is our standard of measure and alignment. God lays this chief cornerstone in place.*

Communion- 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 (NKJV) 23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the [same] night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke [it] and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." 25 In the same manner [He] also [took] the cup after supper, saying, "This cup

is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink [it,] in remembrance of Me.” 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.

Home groups

1. Discuss the purpose and significance of the temple as well as the heart of God to dwell among His people.
2. In the new covenant believers are the temple and we are the priests. Discuss the beauty and heavy responsibility of both.
3. How do we glorify God with our temple? How do we dishonor God with our temple. Discuss your commitment to walk in purity and intimacy with Jesus.
4. Discuss the 3 requirements to withstand the fire of God’s judgment.
5. Jesus is the cornerstone which means He alone is our standard, He alone is the One we behold. How do we live in such a way that nothing else becomes the primary person or thing that we measure our life against?