

## REVIVE CHURCH- PICTURE #5 THE TEMPLE

### EPHESIANS SERIES #10

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So far as we have been going through Ephesians, we have discovered **four pictures** that describe the church. The Assembly or Ecclesia, The body, The Workmanship, and the family. The fifth picture is the holy temple.

**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.

**Paul moves from the picture of the family, members of His own household to the picture of a temple.** Christians are true believers in whom God dwells and moves. We see the work of the Trinity in this passage. **The Father indwells those who are in the Son by the Holy Spirit. The end purpose of the church is to be a habitation, a dwelling place of God.**

**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 as the entirety of 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. This tent was the dwelling place of His manifest presence, which is different than His omnipresence. His Shekinah glory traveled with Israel all the way through the wilderness.*
- *After He brought the Israelites into the promise land, He gave them instructions to build the temple in 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 build Him another temple. The temple's entire purpose was for the worship of God hosting the presence of God.*

**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.**

-Stephen speaking to the Jewish council says this under the new covenant.

**Acts 7:48-50**“However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, as the prophet says: 49‘Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. What house will you build for Me? says the Lord, or what is the place of My rest? 50Has My hand not made all these things?’

**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 creatures in the universe. The temple of God has to be made of the most valuable material-not gold or silver or marble, but people.**

**God’s favorite house, the one He says He will rebuild in Amos 9:11 is David’s tabernacle.**

David, the man after God’s own heart had a longing to build God a place of habitation so that His glory would be in their midst. He put up a tent of unceasing prayer and worship. David would build something for the Lord that His Presence could rest upon. David’s leadership would humbly yield to God’s leadership. For 33 years on Mount Zion, the governmental center of the nation, the Presence of God would be the main thing and the people would join their king in unceasing worship and prayer! It was built upon the yielded heart of worshippers.

**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?**

Paul states to Corinth and to us -*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.*

**The temple of God should be looked in both an individual and collective way.** In connection with the temple, there is always the warning against defiling it.

Here is a picture of our individual temple.

**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.**

**2Corinthians 6:14-16** *14Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?*

15And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?  
 16And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said:  
 “I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.”

**This passage reveals the collective temple that God dwells in, walks among and takes personal ownership of. His temple has specific characteristics/**

1. They are not in (fellowship one-ness) with unbelievers.
2. They do have fellowship with righteousness, not lawlessness.
3. They walk in the light, not the dark
4. They are in unity with Christ and have nothing in common with Satan
5. There is full agreement with God and no agreement with idols

**We are a mobile temple-the temple of God is not a building, it is a people!** **Wherever we are, God is. He walks where we walk. As a temple we provide Him with a dwelling place.** Truth be told we don't go to church because God doesn't hang out in empty buildings. *Wherever we come together there the church is! Where the church is, God is!*

1Peter 2:4-6 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, 5you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, “Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.”

**In this spiritual house that God is building for His eternal dwelling place, you and I, along with all fellow believers who have ever lived are living stones. We are being built together by the power of the Holy Spirit to constitute the final, eternal house that God has destined from eternity, of which all His previous dwelling places in the Old testament were but previews and patterns.**

**Jesus is the only cornerstone.**

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.**

Look at this Old testament picture of the stones for Solomon's temple.

1Kings 6:7-7 And the temple, when it was being built, was built with stone finished at the quarry, so that no hammer or chisel or any iron tool was heard in the temple while it was being built.

**The dimensions for every stone were predetermined in the building of this massive temple. This means that every stone was cut and shaped perfectly into its pre-determined dimension at the quarry. There was no last minute hammering or shaping in the actual structure of the temple. God is doing the same for us. He quarries us out of this world by the Gospel and then He precedes to shape us so that when the final building structure rises, there will be no more hammering or chiseling. We must all undergo this process of sanctification if we are going to take our part in the temple.**

1Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God

**Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, Peter points out that we now are all part of the holy priesthood. When we are assembled together, we minister to the Lord as a company of priests. His church is actually a temple. The temple is no longer limited to Jerusalem. Wherever the church gathers is a temple and those who gather in Jesus name are priests!**

#### Home group questions

1. Discuss this important characteristic of God. He is a dwelling God that wants to be in the midst of His people. Discuss this narrative that we see from Genesis to Revelation.
2. Discuss -People are the most valuable creatures in the universe. The temple of God has to be made of the most valuable material-not gold or silver or marble, but people. The final temple of God, the one that all the others are just a preview and pattern of is made up of people.
3. How do we build our lives in such a way that it stands the test of God's fiery judgment and receives a reward?
4. Discuss our responsibility to building the tabernacle of God. We need to understand we, the church are accountable to build His dwelling. Church is not somewhere you go, it is what you are!
5. Christianity is receiving the foundation and cornerstone Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit aligning our entire lives to him.