



Refresh – Our Temple
1 Corinthians 3:16 & 6:18-20

What we Learned from the Israelites

As we begin to renovate the sanctuary, my hope is that we would refresh our souls. I pray that we will take the time to be honest with God and evaluate our relationship with Him, repent of our sins, consider our service for God, and our love for our neighbor – especially the lost. From the Israelites we learned:

God's desire is to dwell with His people – Moses & the Tabernacle

We must worship God properly – Solomon & the Temple

We must continually get rid of sin – Hezekiah & the Restored Temple

We must commit to purity – Joash and Josiah's Restoration of the Temple

Perseverance is required to continue renewal – Zerubbabel & the Rebuilt Temple

While our focus has been on the Jewish temple, it hasn't existed since AD 70 when the Romans destroyed it. According to the book of Revelation it will be rebuilt in the last days. But for Christians where is our temple? Remember the purpose of the temple was so God could dwell with His people. Where does God dwell now?

Our Bodies are the Temple of God

The ancient Greeks often had contempt for the earthly body. It was considered a shell or even a corpse that the true person or soul lived in. Thus, it was possible for some people to reason that things that were done primarily with just the body really didn't affect the true person inside. Some in the church of Corinth justified their sexual sin in this way. Paul condemned this reasoning and the sin it justified. Paul explained that our physical bodies are the actual temple of God the Holy Spirit. (see Rom 8:9; Mark 13:11; John 14:17, 23). Paul teaches us that the Holy Spirit is a gift God has given us (see 1 Thess 4:8). Furthermore, are bodies aren't ours alone to do with them what we want. We belong to God who redeemed us by His blood. Therefore, we must glorify God with our bodies.

The Local Church is the Temple of God

The Corinthians were a divided church. They were divided into factions based on which apostle or leader they preferred. Paul teaches all leaders (and Christians) are servants of God who God uses to do His work. As servants, Paul warns us to be careful how we serve God so that our service builds up the church, rather than hurting it. The Holy Spirit is in the temple of the local church and thus the church should be holy.

The Church Universal is the Temple of God

Paul and Peter tell us that the entire church of all believers is also a temple (Eph 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:5). We can't focus solely on our personal relationship with God because we are connected to every Christian in our local church. Also, we can't ignore other churches and only consider our own. While Paul chastised the Corinthians for their cliques in their church, we should heed his words when we consider all of the different Christian groups in the world.