

The Wreckage and the Fire Pt 7

YOU ARE THE TEMPLE - *Carrying the Presence of God in a Body the World Called Common*

1 Corinthians 3:16-23 - **Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?** ¹⁷ **If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which *temple* you are.** ¹⁸ Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. ¹⁹ For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their *own* craftiness”; ²⁰ and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.” ²¹ Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours: ²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—all are yours. ²³ And you *are* Christ’s, and Christ *is* God’s.

INTRO: THE REVELATION AFTER THE REBUKE

Paul has spent three chapters confronting Corinth.

- He has **corrected their carnality**
- He has **challenged their chaos**

- He has **confronted their cliques.**

And just when you expect more rebuke...He releases revelation.

Because God does not expose you to embarrass you...He exposes you to elevate you.

1 Corinthians 3:16 - Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?

THE BURDEN OF THIS MESSAGE

The enemy is not threatened by your activity...He is threatened by your awareness.

Because when revelation rises...Misalignment dies.

1. THE PRESENCE YOU CARRY

- There is something in this room right now.
 - Not emotional.
 - Not manufactured.
 - Not momentary.

Something ancient. Something weighty. Something holy. The Hebrews called it **Shekinah.**

- The resting, ruling, radiant presence of God.

- The presence that filled the tabernacle.
- The presence that flooded the temple.
- The presence that fell until men could not stand.

And Paul says: **That presence...is not in a place anymore. That presence...is in a people.**

You are not a building God visits...You are a body God inhabits.

2. THE PROBLEM HE CONFRONTS

“Do you not know...?” This is not a question of information. This is a confrontation of ignorance.

THEIR FAILURE WAS NOT A LACK OF GIFTING...IT WAS A LACK OF AWARENESS

They were Gifted, but divided, active but immature and spiritual but shallow.

You can be anointed in expression and absent in understanding.

3. THE PLACE HE CLARIFIES

Paul uses one word: **Naos**

- Not the outer court.
- Not the casual crowd.
- Not the visible structure.

The inner chamber. The holy core. The sacred center.

NAOS MEANS: The place of blood. The place of glory. The place of God's dwelling.

God did not move into the outskirts of your life...He moved into the innermost place. You are not trying to get into His presence...You are learning how to live from His presence.

The Theological Weight of the Mishkan

- In Hebrew thought, the Mishkan — **the tabernacle** — was the most sacred object in Israel's existence.
- It was constructed according to a heavenly blueprint. Every measurement was given by God.
- Every material was specified. Every piece of furniture was placed exactly as God directed.
- Because God was going to LIVE there. And the dwelling had to match the Dweller.

Now Paul says: the new Mishkan is not a tent in the desert. The new Mishkan is not a building on a hill in Jerusalem. The new Mishkan is walking around Corinth going to work, going to market, going home to their families.

Chrysostom said this about verse 16:

Paul is making the most audacious claim in all of religious history. That the God who cannot be contained by heaven and earth has chosen to be contained by flesh. Not the flesh of a king. Not the flesh of a scholar. The flesh of a lowly convert.

God did not wait for you to be impressive enough to move into. He moved in and started making you holy from the inside out.

4. THE PROTECTION HE COMMANDS

“If anyone destroys the temple...God will destroy him.”

THE PRINCIPLE IS CLEAR: What God fills...God fights for.

- He states it like a law of physics. If this, then this. Always.
- Phtheiro — to destroy, to corrupt, to ruin, to cause decay.
- The same Greek word used for destroying and for the consequence of destroying.
- The punishment mirrors the crime. The measure you use — God uses back.

Who is Paul talking about?

- The faction leaders who were tearing the Body apart.
- The teachers introducing corrupting doctrine into the church.
- Anyone whose agenda was causing the congregation to decay from the inside.
- And — this is the part we skip — believers who were destroying their OWN temple.

WATCH THE PATTERN THROUGH SCRIPTURE - Why God Responds With Such Severity

- **God's response to temple desecration has always been non-negotiable.**

- Uzzah touched the ark — he died on the spot (2 Samuel 6:7).
- Nadab and Abihu offered strange fire — consumed immediately (Leviticus 10:1–2).
- Belshazzar desecrated the temple vessels at his feast — handwriting on the wall that night (Daniel 5).

Not because God is cruel. Because God is holy. And holiness does not negotiate with defilement. It cannot. It is not in its nature.

God has never been casual about what He calls holy.

TWO DIRECTIONS OF DESTRUCTION:

- **External corruption** - Division. Discord. Disruption.
- **Internal corruption** - Sin. Compromise. Carelessness.

***Different expressions...same enemy...same target:
The dwelling place of God.***

If hell touches you...it has touched what God inhabits. Hell's greatest mistake is to touch God's dwelling place!

5. THE PERSPECTIVE HE CORRECTS

“Let no one deceive himself...” - THIS IS SELF-DECEPTION

- Not misled by others...Misled by yourself.

THE CORINTHIAN CONFUSION

They called:

- Opinion - wisdom.
- Division - discernment.
- Preference - spirituality.

Nothing is more dangerous than a person who is confidently wrong and spiritually convinced.

THE KINGDOM CALL - “Become a fool...”:

- Lay down the system.
- Release the standard.
- Reject the measurement.

If it does not produce unity...it is not wisdom. If it does not build the Body...it is not from God.

6. THE POSSESSION HE CONFERS

“All things are yours...”

THEIR ERROR

- “I belong to Paul.”
- “I belong to Apollos.”

PAUL’S CORRECTION - No...They belong to you. AND THEN HE EXPANDS IT

- The world is yours.
- Life is yours.
- Death is yours.
- Present is yours.
- Future is yours.

Why are you fighting over platforms...when you’ve been given possession of everything?

Stop competing over fragments when you’ve been given fullness.

7. THE POSITION HE CONFIRMS

“You are Christ’s...and Christ is God’s.”

THE DIVINE ORDER: (All One Slide)

- All things → You
- You → Christ
- Christ → God

You are not disconnected...you are divinely connected. You are not drifting...you are anchored in eternity.

You are held by a chain that reaches all the way to the throne.

CONCLUSION: THE MIRROR THAT REVEALS

- Paul does not leave them with behavior. He leaves them with identity.

When identity is revealed...Behavior is recalibrated.

FINAL QUESTIONS

- Do your words reflect a temple...or a trash heap?

- Do your relationships reveal holiness...or hostility?
- Do you carry yourself like something sacred...or something common?

I AM NOT EMPTY. I AM NOT ORDINARY. I AM NOT INCIDENTAL. I AM INHABITED!

- *You don't visit His presence...You live from it.*
- *You don't host Him occasionally...He dwells in you continually.*

You are the temple. Now...Live like something holy lives inside of you.