



**Dr. Jimmy Stewart** | June 8, 2025  
*Sermon* | The Temple of the Living God

*Scripture:* 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

*Summary:* In this passage, Paul offers a heartfelt appeal for believers to live distinctly holy lives, grounded in their identity as God's temple. He warns against being “unequally yoked” with unbelievers—not merely in marriage, but in all partnerships that threaten to compromise the purity of the gospel and the integrity of God's people. Just as light cannot fellowship with darkness, the church must resist blending with the values of the broken world. Paul reminds the Corinthian believers of their covenant identity: *“You are the temple of the living God.”* He draws deeply from Old Testament covenant language (Lev. 26:12; Isa. 52:11; Ezek. 37:27), calling the church to *“come out from among them and be separate.”* This is not a call to isolation, but to consecration—a life visibly set apart for God's purposes. The appeal climaxes in 7:1: “Since we have these promises,” Paul urges believers to pursue holiness, both in body and spirit, out of reverence for God. This passage challenges believers in the local church to embrace their identity not as a building, but as a *living, breathing dwelling place for the presence of God*. As such, we are to be distinct, shining as temples of light in a world shrouded in darkness.

## **I. Actively Avoid Working Partnerships with Unbelievers.**

### **2 Corinthians 6:14-16**

14 Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? 15 What harmony can there be between Christ and the devil? How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever? 16 And what union can there be between God's temple and idols?

1. to work together, help in work, be partner in labour
2. to put forth power together with and thereby to assist

Interaction, Decision making, possible compromise

### **Five Contrasting Pairs**

1. Righteous with Wicked
2. Light with Darkness
3. Christ with the Devil

4. Believer with Unbeliever
5. God's Temple with Idols

Do not allow unbelievers to have a controlling interest in anything connected to you.  
WHY? Influence, Drift, Mission

## **II. Remember Who You Are, Who You Belong To and Who You Represent.**

For we are the temple of the living God. As God said: "I will live in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

**OT Promises:** Leviticus 26:12, Ezekiel 37:27, Isaiah 52:11

- I Will, I Will, They Will
- God doesn't just visit His people—He inhabits them.
- Your daily life reflects the God you claim lives within you. What message are people receiving? Are you sending mixed messages?

## **III. Don't Touch Filthy Things**

### **2 Corinthians 6:17-18**

17 Therefore, come out from among unbelievers, and separate yourselves from them, says the Lord. Don't touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you. 18 And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

I Will, I Will, You Will

What habit, compromise, or filthy thing needs to be left behind so you can walk fully in His presence?

## **IV. Standing on God's Promises Working Toward Holiness (God's Promises - Our Response)**

### **2 Corinthians 7:1**

1 Because we have these promises, dear friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness because we fear God.

God's I Will - His Promises!

Holiness isn't optional—it's the fruit of intimacy with holy God.

You Must Be Holy, For I Am Holy. **1 Peter 1:16**

### *Life Application Sermon Guide:*

1. What does it mean to be “unequally yoked” in the context of 2 Corinthians 6:14? How does this apply beyond marriage into areas like business, ministry and close partnerships? In what areas of your life are you yoked to values or relationships that pull you away from or conflict with your identity in Christ? What steps might God be calling you to take to realign those values and/or relationships?
2. Paul contrasts righteousness with lawlessness, light with darkness, and Christ with Belial (v. 14–15). Why do you think Paul uses such strong contrasts, and how do these contrasts reveal spiritual incompatibility? How do these contrasts help believers discern the difference between compromise and compassion in cultural engagement? Are there ways you’ve blurred these lines in your own walk with Christ? What boundaries might you need to establish or reinforce to walk in holiness?
3. In what ways does the imagery of the church and believers as “the temple of the living God” (v. 16) reshape our understanding of how we live in a broken world? How should this sacred identity influence our decisions, behaviors and relationships as a local church community? What changes would someone see in your daily life if they truly understood you are a walking temple of God’s Spirit?
4. Paul quotes God’s covenant promise to “dwell among” His people and calls the church to “come out and be separate” (v. 16–17). How can the church today remain separate from the world while still being on mission to the world? What are the dangers of isolation on one hand and compromise on the other? How is God calling you personally to “come out” from worldly influence while staying engaged in redemptive ministry?
5. According to 2 Corinthians 7:1, what are the promises we are to live from and how do they motivate us to pursue holiness? Why does Paul connect God’s promises to our responsibility to “cleanse ourselves” and pursue holiness “in the fear of God”? What specific area of your life is God prompting you to surrender or purify as a response to His promises?
6. How does the doctrine of the indwelling presence of God shift our view of the church? Is the church just as an institution or is it a Spirit-filled community? Describe the differences. What practical expressions of this truth should mark a “Spirit-filled” church? What contribution are you making to help your church reflect the holiness, love and truth of God’s indwelling presence in every believer?

*The Summary and Life Application were created using Custom GPT, June 4, 2025 and edited for First Baptist Gulfport by Dr. James M. Stewart.*