

Ye are the Temple of God

1 Cor. 3:16-17

Paul pictures himself as the planter

Apollos, as one who waters.

Analogy to architecture.

1. Architect – Master builder
2. Foundation – Jesus Christ
3. Right Materials – motives, methods, quality, etc.
4. Inspection – test, accountability, Judgment Seat of Christ..
5. Rewards – crowns.

We are in process of erecting temple of God.

If we defile it He will destroy us.

Horrendous consequences of building a ministry with materials not consistent with character of Jesus Christ.

1. The church and believers damaged 1 Corinthians 3:12-13

Fire of God's judgment burn up wood, hay, and stubble ...suffer loss.

2. The church and believers lose reward. 1 Corinthians 3:14-15

Possible for child of God to do much damage as a teacher in body of Christ.

By doctrine, motives, methods.

Result: see it all go up in smoke at last day.

Piper: *Not one of us will escape this chastisement, for none of us is a perfect teacher or parent or counselor.*

3. The third result of wood, hay, and stubble is that of destruction.

If individual believer or church defiles ministry --result is destruction.

1 Corinthians 3:16

Know ye not: Don't you realize

This truth about Temple of Holy Ghost a foundational truth.

Born-again--body the temple of Holy Spirit.

When all Christians gather together, whole congregation becomes great temple of Holy Spirit.

Center of divine activity in community Matthew 18:20

Rest of the chapter - right thinking concerning

1. The body
2. Opinion of ourselves

3. Others
4. Possessions
5. Opinion of God.

1. Concerning body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:16

Temple. 1 Cor 6:19 every Christian called Temple of God.

Shrine, sanctuary, dwelling place of God.

Jews – Holy of Holies.

Only one allowed to enter--High Priest.

Day of Atonement.

Any one else struck dead.

Reason: defiled Temple of God.

NT Temple of God?

1. Body of believer.
2. Local church.

Mac: *Consequently, the church itself is the temple of God, a composite temple composed of all God's elect.*

Gromaki: *The temple of God thus is composed of believers individually indwelt by the Holy Spirit, ... Eph 2:19-22.*

Lenski: *God's people are one spiritual temple or sanctuary, and wherever God's people are, there that sanctuary is found.*

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, ... in you?

Referring to church in Corinth.

Church--Bride of Christ, Body of Christ, House of God.

Temple of God nothing to do with building of brick and mortar.

1 Corinthians 3:17

Defile: destroy by means of corrupting. Bring to worse state.

How corrupt church?

Context: when introduce wisdom of the world into life style and practice

Choose to live life according to dictates of world

Compromise God's moral standards

Even though look like gold, judged according to standards of God's Word

How defile and corrupt body?

Two tests:

1. Holiness of life 2. Purity of Doctrine
- Evil associations: 1 Corinthians 15:33
Financial fraud: 2 Corinthians 7:2

False doctrine: 2 Corinthians 11:3

Immoral activities and spirit: 2 Corinthians 7:1; Revelation 19:2

Vines: *In this passage it is used of marring a local church by leading it away from that condition of holiness of life and purity of doctrine in which it should abide.*

If person hurt, corrupt, or destroy health of local church, God bring corruption of death and destroy him.

End up in worse state.

Destroy: same word as defile.

To pine or waste. Shrivell or wither. Spoil or ruin.

Matthew 18:6

Barnes: *If any man by his doctrines or precepts shall pursue such a course as TENDS to destroy the church, God shall severely punish him.*

Godet: *Referring to those who had laboured at Corinth in such a way that they had ended with disorganizing the Church, poisoning its religious and moral life, and compromising the work of God that had been started.*

Defiles body:

Through eyes

Through mouth

Through ears

Through activities

Defiles Church.

False doctrine

Speech

Methods

Motives

Activities

Disobedience:

So what?

Committed to:

Keeping Jesus Christ as focus and foundation

Building with right materials

Holiness of life

Purity of doctrine.