



1 CORINTHIANS

STEWARDS *of the* GOSPEL

Sermon Series

The Temple of God

1 Corinthians 3:16-23

- A Great part of stewardship in the Christian life is with regards to our own bodies and personal spiritual growth. Paul mentions the temple and significance of this theme in our lives.
- **Solomon's Temple (First Temple)**
 - Built by: King Solomon, around 960 BC.
 - Location: Mount Moriah in Jerusalem.
 - Purpose: It was the central place of worship for the Israelites, where they performed sacrifices and housed the Ark of the Covenant.
 - **Design:**

- Modeled after the Tabernacle (portable tent sanctuary used during the Exodus).
 - Consisted of three main sections:
 - Outer Court – A large area where people gathered and sacrifices were made.
 - Holy Place – The main hall containing the altar of incense, the golden lampstand, and the table of showbread.
 - Most Holy Place (Holy of Holies) – The innermost chamber where the Ark of the Covenant was kept, symbolizing God's presence.
 - Constructed with cedar wood, gold, and fine stone.
 - Two massive bronze pillars named Jachin and Boaz stood at the entrance.
 - Destruction: The Babylonians, led by King Nebuchadnezzar, destroyed it in 586 BC, and the Jews were taken into exile.
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- **Second Temple**

- Built by: Zerubbabel and later expanded by King Herod.
 - Time: Rebuilt after the Jewish exile, around 516 BC.
 - Differences: Less grand than Solomon's Temple but later renovated by Herod the Great to be even more magnificent.
 - Destruction: The Romans destroyed it in 70 AD, as prophesied by Jesus (Matthew 24:1-2).
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- **Significance of the Temple**

- Symbolized God's presence among His people.
 - Place for worship, prayer, and sacrifices.
 - The Holy of Holies was where the High Priest could enter once a year on Yom Kippur to make atonement for Israel.
- The temple foreshadowed Jesus as the ultimate sacrifice and the presence of God dwelling in believers.

Main Point: When we are saved by God, we are made new and belong to Him.

- The temple is no longer a building – it is now the people of God. **1 Corinthians 6:19 – Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you.** Ephesians 2:22 – **In Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.**

I. The dwelling of God's Spirit

- a. This was an important theme that Paul wanted to clearly communicate to the Christians in Corinth.
- b. The people of Corinth were heavily influenced by Roman and Greek views concerning the body and the soul. Many of these views didn't line up with what the Bible says about the body and the soul.
- c. They thought of the soul as important and the body as less important. The soul in their view was pure and the body was corrupt.
 - i. This led to hedonism – the body didn't really matter to them, and they thought what you did to your body would have no effect on your soul.
- d. There was a temple to the Greek goddess of love – Aphrodite – in Corinth. Having multiple partners was socially acceptable and could have been a status symbol.

- e. The rich also indulged in lavish feasts and parties of excess. Gluttony wasn't really a problem for them – again because they saw no connection between the body and the soul.
- f. Slaves were bodies to be used like property. Gladiators and athletes trained their bodies for public spectacle. They had separated their bodies from any sense of morality – it was simply about usefulness and indulgence.
- g. Why is this important? In our modern day, we are not far from this mindset at all.
- h. ***Even the church can be influenced*** – that's why he warned them in chapter 11 against turning the Lord's Supper into a party. And why he says here that your body is a temple. ***There is a direct spiritual connection between the body and soul.***

II. The foolishness of this age

- a. Paul warned the Corinthian Christians against the foolishness of this age. The church needed to be ready to reject this mess of an ideology. In 2 Corinthians he warns them that there are those whose minds the god of this age have blinded.
- b. There must be the same warning for people today.***
- c. When we look at the secular worldview that is so prominent today – if we have a strong biblical worldview then we can't help but to think all of this stuff is foolishness.
 - i. Many people have embraced the false notion that whatever they do with their own bodies doesn't impact their soul and doesn't impact anyone else.
 - ii. Children are being raised in this nation, and they're being taught that you can pick your gender from a wide variety of genders. This evil and vile

philosophy has infected so many people that doctors will even go through with bodily mutilation on these children at the direction of their parents.

- iii. Sexual depravation has become the god of this present age. People are exalted as heroes, not because of accomplishments or virtue, but they are heroes because of their sexual immorality.
 - iv. Millions of people are addicted to pornography, and they fail to see the moral rot that is taking place in their own hearts as a result.
 - v. Marriage is viewed as the culmination of romance rather than a covenant of commitment. And so, it doesn't last.
- d. We need to shout from the rooftops – run from the foolishness of this age.

III. An eternal possession

- a. VERSE 23. All of this matters greatly because as a child of God – you belong to God.
- b. All the stuff going on in society is the bad news. Here's the good news – God has a much better and greater plan.
- c. Yes, your body does feel the effect of a fallen and sinful world. We suffer, we sin, we face diseases, we experience physical death.
- d. But there is a direct connection between your body and your soul. God is sanctifying your soul and your body. He is growing us more into the image of Christ.
- e. When we die – our bodies will be placed in the ground, and our souls will be in the presence of God.

- IV. **Daniel 12:2 (ESV)** – *"And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."*
- V. **John 5:28-29 (ESV)** – *"Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment."*
- VI. **Philippians 3:20-21 (ESV)** – *"But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself."*
- VII. **1 Corinthians 15:51-53 (ESV)** – *"Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality."*