

# PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

## 1 CORINTHIANS 3:16-23

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

### JESUS CHRIST AND HIS NEW HOME – PART 1

*How To Be A Church That's Out Of This World*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Maturity, Carnality, Judgment, Fruitfulness, Discipleship**

#### 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**.

## JESUS CHRIST AND HIS NEW HOME

*WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER*

**1.) It's a holy house**

**v.16-17**

**In your mind, what should happen if you visit**

a temple or a place of worship?

But does your life change because of the physical temple? – really?

No, not at all. It's what happens inside the temple, the church.

A physical structure cannot save you, change you or alter you permanently.  
It can make you feel good with its beauty and décor – but that won't last.

# IT'S A HOLY HOUSE

## 1a.) He's desiring a house for Himself

**16** Do you not know that (1) you are the temple of God and (2) that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

“Don't ya know this?”

“have you allowed the power of this truth to be forgotten?”  
Don't you remember that what I am saying to you  
is so obvious - that the Lord would do this

There are 2 words for temple

**temple** i Jero/n hieron, hee-er-on';

a sacred place, the entire area allotted for the physical Temple at Jerusalem.

**temple** 3485. nao/Β naos, nah-os';

the inner dwelling or holy of holies. The place where the Lord is. His place.

### Acts 7:49

*“Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. What house will you build for Me? says the LORD, Or what is the place of My rest?”*

Adam and Eve never met the Lord in a Temple. But they did meet Him daily, whenever and wherever they were...

### Romans 8:10

And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. :11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

### Acts 7:47

But Solomon built Him a house. :48 “However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands,

Paul Opens This Section with a Strong Rebuke or a Challenge...

“Don't Ya know this?”

### Revelation 21:22

But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

“Don’t Ya know this?”

**2 Corinthians 6:16**

And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? **For you are the temple of the living God.** As God has said: *“I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.”*

“Don’t Ya know this?”

**1 Corinthians 6:19**

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

Every building exists for a purpose, or it should.  
The church (local, at Corinth) had forgotten why they were in existence!

## IT’S A HOLY HOUSE

**1b.) He’s a protector of His house**

**17a** If anyone **defiles the temple of God**, God will **destroy** him.

## The temple of God

NEWS FLASH

**!!! CHRISTIANITY HAS NO TEMPLE !!!**

There is no salt lake city temple / there is no Vatican / there is no Mecca

The temple that was in Jerusalem had one primary function - **the worship of God through the offering of sacrifices.** There were no secret ceremonies, no special endowments, so acts attainment in the temple. **The highest act of worship took place on the day of Atonement**, when the one high priest offered the one high sacrifice for the sins of the people. The high Priest would, on that day, go through the veil into the Holy of Holies, and there offer the blood of the sacrifice before the represented presence of God.

Charles Ryrie

So grave is this warning and clear is its coming judgment upon *any man* or woman who creates or contributes to the harm, division or collapse of a local church, that

whether they be a Christian or not, severe discipline by God awaits. If it be the meddling of a Christian that causes the damage, they show that they themselves are in a state of decay. If it is in the life of an unbeliever, eternal damnation is in order.

## IT'S A HOLY HOUSE

### 1c.) He's a renovator to His house

**17b** For the temple of God is **holy**, - which temple you are.

We have no idea just how radical and outrageous  
This revelation is to the hearers...

#### Colossians 1:27

To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the **hope** (*the sustained confidence*) of glory.

#### Acts 17:24

God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, **does not dwell in temples made with human hands.** :25 Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything,

#### Ephesians 2:18

For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. :19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, :20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*, :21 in whom **the whole building**, being fitted together, **grows into a holy temple in the Lord**, :22 in whom **you also are being built** together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

## JESUS CHRIST AND HIS NEW HOME

*WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!*

### 2.) It's a wise house

v.18-20

### 2a.) His children make good decisions

**18** Let no one **deceive** himself.

**BECAUSE OF ABSENTEE PARENTS AND A GENERALLY WORTHLESS  
EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN AMERICA –  
YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY DO NOT KNOW HOW TO THINK.**

The wisdom, knowledge and science **of this world** is biased.  
It has to be biased because it cannot face the reality and the evidence.

Human Philosophy Seeks to Argue Away.

**1 Timothy 6:20-21**

O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane *and* vain babblings, and oppositions of **science** falsely so called: **:21** Which some professing have erred concerning the faith.

**science** gnw◊siβ **gnosis**, *gno'-sis*;

the knowing or **the act** of knowing something. The science (knowledge) of a reality.

Human beings **apart from God** cannot understand the things of God.

**Proverbs 3:5**

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; **:6** In all your ways acknowledge Him, And **He shall direct your paths.**

**Numbers 9:15-16,18**

Now on the day that the tabernacle was raised up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the Testimony; from evening until morning it was above the tabernacle like the appearance of fire. **:16** So it was always: the cloud covered it *by day*, and the appearance of fire by night.... **:18** At the command of the LORD the children of Israel would journey, and at the command of the LORD they would camp; as long as the cloud stayed above the tabernacle they remained encamped.

**IT'S A WISE HOUSE**

**2b.) His children walk in wisdom**

**18b** If anyone among you **seems to be wise** in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. (why?) **: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**.”

**Luke 7:35**

But **wisdom is justified by all her children.**”

The way of the world, the spirit of the world - is hostility toward God.

**Romans 12:16c**

Do not be wise in your own opinion. = *I can make this work*

## There’s No Excuse For Being a Dopey Christian

**James 1:5**

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

**A Pedometer records** how many steps we take in a day.  
What if there was a record of where our feet go in any given day?

**We walk in wisdom**

## IT’S A WISE HOUSE

### **2c.) His children live in holiness**

**20** “The LORD knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are **futile**.”

**1 John 4:12**

No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. **:13** By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He **has given us** of His Spirit.

**Isaiah 57:15**

For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name *is* Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy *place*, I dwell with him *who* has a contrite and humble spirit,

## 2 Corinthians 6:15

And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? :16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: *“I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.”* :17 Therefore *“Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.”*

## “JESUS CHRIST AND HIS NEW HOME”

*WHAT MAKES YOU A TRUE BELIEVER!*

### 3.) It's a forever house

v.21-23

#### 3a.) Because He builds on eternity

21 Therefore let no one **boast in men.** (that is deception)  
For all things are yours:

There is nothing that you can obtain from man,  
or from this world system that will translate into Eternity for your benefit.

Don't Trust in Men, or in Others to Rescue you or to Provide for you.

The temple / the priesthood / prophets / kings / sacrifices /  
All these things **accommodate our human weakness.**

#### 1 John 5:11-12

And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is **in His Son.**  
:12 He who has the Son has (*eternal*) life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have (*eternal*) life.

#### John 14:17

the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

**PAUL IS REMINDING THEM TO MOVE ON INTO  
THIS RADICAL REALITY - CHRIST IN YOU**

**This Fact, This Reality is the Most Challenging Concept**

for Mankind to Cope With – it is that the one true eternal God of all creation would desire to interact with His creation, talk with His creation, redeem His creation.

My dear Buddhist - - can your god or gods do this?

My Islamic listeners - - you know that Allah cannot do this? = **be among men**

My Hindu neighbor - - you know inside of you is an empty room

## IT'S A FOREVER HOUSE

### 3b.) Because He gives us everything we need

:22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come - all are yours.

### These Men Exist for Your Benefit, To Serve You.

#### John 17:22

And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: :23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one,

#### Hebrews 10:1,5,9-10

For the law, being a shadow of the good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.... :5 Therefore, when Christ came into the world, He said: "*Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me...* :9 then He said, "*Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.*" So then He takes away **the first** that He may establish **the second**. :10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.  
*(Church - this is not available in an earthly temple)*

## IT'S A FOREVER HOUSE

### 3c.) Because He belongs to us

23 And **you** are **Christ's**, and Christ is **God's**.

#### John 17:23

I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one,



**James 4:5**

Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, “The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously”?

**1 Peter 2:9**

But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

( In a few Moments – You’re Going Outside to Reveal to the World what your God is like )

**Do you have a biblically-based,  
Supernatural relationship with God?**

Christian - your life is now  
a **“Temple at Large”** that is,  
wherever you go in this world, so goes the  
ministry of Jesus - 24/7/365

**1 John 4:15-17**

Whoever **confesses** that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. **:16** And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. **:17** Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.

*End of Study*