

THE TEMPLE OF GOD IS HOLY
I COR. 3:16-23

Introduction:

- A. There was a church of God at Corinth.
 - 1. 1:2.
 - 2. The church is always "somewhere."

- B. The church had serious problems.
 - 1. "contentions" among you.
 - 2. True then, true now!

- C. Paul had laid the foundation of this church.
 - 1. "I have laid the foundation."
 - 2. "No other foundation can man lay."

- D. Apollos had built upon that foundation.
 - 1. "Apollos watered."
 - 2. "God gave the increase."

- E. The church was built from two types of material.
 - 1. Gold, Silver, Precious stone. (granite)
 - 2. Wood, Hay, Stubble.

- F. The church would be tested.
 - 1. v3:13.
 - 2. This church will be tested!

- G. The abiding work would be rewarded.
 - 1. v14.
 - 2. The superficial would burn.

I. THE CHURCH IS THE TEMPLE OF GOD. V16

- A. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God."
 - 1. temple = naos - the interior and most sacred part of
"hieron" = a place consecrated or sacred.
 - 2. You are the "Holy of Holies."

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- B. "and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you."
 - 1. dwelleth = oikeo - to inhabit, to hold as ones abode
 - 2. Not the same as individual indwelling.

- C. This church [Southwest] is the same as the Corinthians.
 - 1. We are a temple!
 - 2. God dwells in us!

II. THE CHURCH CAN BE DEFILED. V17

- A. "If any man defile the temple of God."
 - 1. defile = pheheiro - to spoil, to corrupt, destroy; to bring into a worse state; to deprave.
 - 2. temple = naos - sanctuary, inner Sanctum.
 - 3. We think of desecrating the building, this speaks of the temple of God, His church.

- B. How can this be done?
 - 1. By doctrinal impurity.
 - 2. By immorality.
 - 3. By schismatics.
 - 4. By neglect.

III. GOD'S RE-ACTION TO TEMPLE DEFILERS.

- A. "him shall God destroy."
 - 1. destroy = pheheiro - to spoil, to corrupt, to destroy.
 - 2. Same word as "defile."
 - 3. It is "tooth for tooth."

- B. The most dangerous thing for a church member to become involved in is this act.
 - 1. Playing with a loaded gun.
 - 2. I Cor. 11:30.

C. Why?

1. "for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are"
2. It is God's "peculiar treasure." Israel.

IV. GOD'S WARNING TO THE WISE. V18-20

A. "let no man deceive himself."

1. deceive = eksapatao - apatao with the intensive prefix = to deceive wholly, to thoroughly delude.
2. "don't any of you be under a delusion on this."

B. Man cannot out-think or out-plan God.

1. "If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise."
2. Think like the world, be a fool. Think like God and be wise, though the world will think you a fool.

C. Paul's proof-texts. v19-20.

1. "for it is written."
 - a. "He taketh the wise in their own craftiness."
Job 5:13.
 - b. God uses a man's own brilliant planning to trap him.
2. "And again, the Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain." Psalm 94:11.
 - a. "The Lord knows how fruitless are the deliberations of the wise."

V. IT IS GOD WHO HAS GIVEN YOU EVERYTHING. V21

A. "Therefore, let no man glory in men."

1. v4-8.
2. v13.

B. "For all things are yours."

1. "whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas."
2. These men are given as your servants.

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C. Other servants or things God gave them.

1. "on the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours."
2. We may not know what comes from God, but we know all good things come from Him! James 1:17.

D. Our Double Insurance. v23.

1. "and ye are Christ's."
2. "and Christ is God's."