

I Corinthians 3:16-17 **God's Holy Temple**

Introduction:

The prophet Jeremiah was called to be a preacher to a rebellious people who had forsaken the Lord and sacrificed to other gods and worshiped the works of their own hands. Jeremiah was reluctant at first because of his youth; but the Lord reassured him and said, "do not be afraid of them, I will put My words in your mouth." (Jer. 1:4-10) The people of Judah boasted that as long as they had the physical structure of temple, God would dwell in the midst. Jeremiah said, to them, "Do not trust in deceptive words, saying, this is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord." God will not dwell with them when they live a life of idolatry among other wicked sins. Jer. 7:1-11)

I. The Visible Church is God's Temple v.16

A. The sacredness of God's community

1. "Temple" Gk. Naos "referring to the sanctuary where God dwells.
2. God does not dwell in inanimate objects (pantheism)
3. "You" is plural, referencing the whole visible church. (not individual believers) Cf. I Cor. 6:19 **Turn To: Ephesians 2:19-22**

B. Old Testament times

1. God's place to dwell – I Kings 8:16-17
2. The place not elaborate – (The catacombs)

C. Apostasy in God's Temple – Turn To: II Thess. 2:3-12 ; (Smyrna – Rev. 2:9; Philadelphia – Rev. 3:9 (Kistemaker's comment)

II. The Visible Church is Holy – v.17

A. The seriousness of divisions in the church

1. "destroy" just punishment, severe chastisement
2. The church, the apple of God's eye – Zech. 2:8

B. The Church's greatest weakness – I Cor. 12:25

1. Bitterness – Eph. 4:31; Heb.12:15
2. Intellectual pride – (Plato regarding wisdom)

C. Maintaining the balance – I Pet. 3:15

1. John Piper's view on guns – Matt, 26:52
2. Sell your robe and by a sword – Luke22:35-36
3. The Civil law – Exodus 22:2