

5. Witness

- a) Church is pictured by lampstands in Revelation, spreading God's light abroad (see also Matt. 5:14-16)
- b) Paul saw his work of taking the Gospel to the Gentiles as a sacrificial service too (Rom. 15:16)

6. Communion as the One Feast of the New Temple.

Heb. 13:10 "we have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat" – may refer to feasting on Christ (John 6)

7. Adornment for God's temple

- a) Luke 21:5 mentions the temple was "adorned with noble stones and offerings". And the church becomes this adornment as "living stones" (1 Pet. 2:4) and "living sacrifices" (Rom. 12:1).
- b) Rev. 3:12 promises we will one day adorn the Heavenly temple "I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God."

B. Power (for Temple-Living)

1. Recognize who we ARE

- a) Be separate and holy, because we are separated and holy to the Lord – we are the Temple of the Living God.
- b) Knowing what we ARE, gives us motivation and cause to "become" who God has promised we are.

2. Believe God's Promises

- a) 2 Cor. 7:1 "since we have these promises..."
- b) 2 Pet. 1:3-4 "great and precious promises... that through them, we might become partakers of the divine nature."

3. Gaze on Christ's Glory in His Word, and His Temple-People

- a) 2 Cor. 3:18 "we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another."
- b) 1 Pet. 2:4-5, "as you come to him (the cornerstone)... you yourselves... are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

New Series: "God Dwells Among Us" – exploring the theme of God's presence among His people: from Eden to the New Jerusalem.

Schedule: 6 or 7 lessons (May 31 – June 21, July 12-26).

Based on: *God Dwells Among Us: Expanding Eden to the Ends of the Earth* by G.K. Beale and Mitchell Kim (Crossway, 2014).

***We are not directly using it as curriculum, no need to purchase a copy.*

I. Key New Testament Text: 2 Corinthians 6:16.

A. 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1 – The Text in Context

1. **[Be Separate]** "Do Not Be Unequally Yoked" (6:14)
2. **Why?** - You are **separate**, distinct...
 - (You are) Righteousness, Light, [of] Christ, a believer, the temple of God
3. **[Be Holy]** "Cleanse ourselves from every defilement" (7:1)
4. **Why?** - "[You] have [all] these promises" [you are **holy**]
 - This goes all the way back to 1:20, but
 - Particularly focuses on the promises in v. 16-18 relating to our being the "temple of the Living God."
5. In short, we are commanded to be what we are.
 - Be separate, because you are separate (as God's people).
 - Be holy, because you are holy (as God's temple).
6. So, the Church is the "we" who are "the temple."
 - Not "like" the Temple of God: the Church **is** the Temple of God (just as much as we are believers and are righteous - vs. 14-16).

B. Other NT texts that support the Church as the Temple.

1 Cor. 3:16 "you [plural] are God's temple... God's Spirit dwells in you"
Eph. 2:18-22 Gentiles and Jews alike grow "into a holy temple in the Lord" and are "being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit."

1 Peter 2:4-5 Jesus is a “living stone” that is “chosen and precious,” and “you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house... a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices...”

- The Church is also the Body of Christ, the True Temple.

John 2:19-21 “Destroy this temple and in 3 days I will raise it up... but he was speaking about the temple of his body....”

John 1:14 “the Word... [tabernacled] among us” and housed the true Shekinah glory.

C. **Conclusion:** The body of Christ, the Church, is in some way “The Temple of the Living God.”

- We need to look at the Old Testament to learn what this means.
- We will trace the theme of “God with Us” throughout the Bible.
- Here in 2 Cor. 6:16 two of the texts listed below are brought together – Lev. 26:11-12 and Ezek. 37:27.

II. The Theme of “God With Us” in the Bible.

A. Abrahamic Covenant

Gen. 17:7 – “I will establish my covenant... to be God to you and to your offspring after you.”

B. Mosaic Covenant

Exod. 6:7 “I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God...”

Exod. 29:45 “I will dwell among... Israel and be their God.”

Lev. 26:11-12 “I will make my dwelling among you...I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people.”

C. Davidic Covenant

2 Sam. 7:24 “You established... Israel to be your people forever. And you, O LORD, became their God.”

1 Kings 8:13, 27 “I... built you an exalted house, a place for you to dwell in forever.... But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built!”

Psalms 132:13-14 “For the LORD has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his dwelling place: ‘This is my resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it’.”

D. New Covenant

1. Prophesied

Jer. 31:33 “And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

Ezek. 37:27 “My dwelling place shall be with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

2. Inaugurated

Matt. 1:23 “‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel’ (which means, God with us).”

John 1:14 “...the Word became flesh and dwelt [or tabernacled] among us...”

3. Fulfilled

Rev. 21:3 “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.”

III. Application

A. Obligations &

B. Privileges

1. **Worship** – Heb. 12:28-29 “...let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.”
2. **Purity** – 2 Cor. 7:1 “cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.”
3. **Sacrifices**
 - a) Singing of praise (Heb. 13:15)
 - b) Doing good & sharing our possessions (Heb. 13:16, Mic. 6:6-8)
 - c) Giving of gifts to enable spread of the gospel (Phil. 4:18)
 - d) Confession of sin, penitence of heart (Ps. 51:17)
 - e) Steadfast love/covenant loyalty & knowledge of God (Hos. 6:6)
 - f) Offering our bodies to God for spiritual service (Rom. 12:1)
4. **Prayer (Incense)**

Ps. 141:2 “Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!”

Rev. 5:8 “the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.”