

The Church – A Spiritual Temple

Read: Ephesians 2:19-22

Summary:

There are many pictures of the church in the Bible... this week we looked at 'The Church – A Spiritual Temple'. In Ephesians Paul has just shown how they were separated from God by their sin but through the death and resurrection of Jesus they can now know peace with God. They are welcomed into the church: shown as God's Kingdom, God's Family and God's Temple.

There are many places within the New Testament where the church is pictured as God's House / Temple: Hebrews 3:6, 1 Peter 2:5, 1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19 & 2 Corinthians 6:16.

We gain a better understanding of what Paul was referring to by looking at the Temple in the Old Testament: the first was built by King Solomon; one was envisioned by Ezekiel, a second lasted 500 years and the third was built by Herod to please the people.

The Temple was divided into a Court of Women, Gentiles and Jews as well as the Holy of Holies. It was a place of storing national treasures and hosting celebrations as well as a place of worship and sacrifice.

The Church is a Temple whose foundations are the Apostles and Prophets; for whom Christ Jesus is the Chief cornerstone; it is a growing building that demonstrates solid unity! Most importantly of all the church is where God dwells!

"God is forming for himself a people of all tribes, tongues and nations experiencing the glory and favour of God. This must be our passion". Terry Virgo

Application:

Please select from the following. Encourage all to take part and to be honest; in what ways are people to change as a result of the word? Make sure there is time to pray for one another.

1. Was anything said that needs clarifying?
2. What did God say to you and what are you going to do as a result?
3. How many other pictures of the church can you think of from the bible? What does each one teach about the church?
4. How do you think the glory of the latter house is / will be greater than the former? (Haggai 2:6-9)
5. If you could see God sitting in the front row on a Sunday morning how would you behave differently? Why or why not? In what way?
6. How can we develop a unity between people that is 'as strong as a wall'?