

Treat This Assembly as Holy

1Corinthians 3:16,17

Introduction:

- A. The word “holy” in the Bible
 - 1. Means “set a _____” or different.
 - 2. Describes G_____ since He is different from any other being.
 - 3. Describes Christians who are g_____ together.
- B. Some of the Corinthian Christians did not treat their assembly as holy (set apart or different than other gatherings)
 - 1. 1Cor 11:20,21 – some got d_____ at their fellowship meals when they observed the Lord’s Supper.
 - 2. 1Cor 1:11 – meetings erupted in a_____.
- C. Treat our assembly as holy, different than other gatherings
 - 1. What will happen if everyone does this?
 - 2. How do we do this? – 1Cor 3:16,17 gives us a F_____ that we all should know and an A_____ that we all should avoid.

The one fact you should know (16)

*Do you not know that you are a temple of God
and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*

- A. What is a temple of God?
 - 1. Some misinterpret this passage because of 1 Cor 6:19, which states, *your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you...*
 - a. The word “b_____” is not in 1Cor 3:16.
 - b. The word “you” is in verse 16, which is in the p_____ in the Greek text – *you all*.
 - c. Every local Christian assembly, regardless of denomination, is a t_____ of God.
 - 2. Biblical background of the temple of God.
 - a. God told Moses to build a tabernacle, which was a m_____ temple. God stated that He would dwell among them in the innermost part of it (Ex 25:8). Priests had to enter it in a holy manner or they would die (Ex 28:40-43).

- b. God told Solomon to build a temple in Jerusalem to replace the tabernacle (2Sam 7:5-13; 1Kgs 5:1-3). Jesus called this temple, God's h_____ (Matt 21:13)
- c. The Jerusalem temple was completely d_____ in 70 A.D. as Jesus prophesied would happen (Matt 24:2).
 - 1) When Jesus died, the veil blocking the way to the innermost sanctuary was r_____ from top to bottom (Matt 27:51; Mk 15:38; Lk 23:45). Even the Jewish Talmud testifies of this event (Yoma 39b).
 - 2) Both the veil being torn and the destruction of the temple was God's way of declaring that He would dwell among His people in a new way – the gathering of people in His name (Matt 18:20).
3. Collectively, the Corinthian Christians are “a temple of God”
 - a. The Spirit of God therefore dwells a_____ them.
 - 1) Most translations read “dwell in” not dwell among because the Greek preposition is “en” which should always be translated as “in” unless the context determines otherwise.
 - 2) The context demands it be translated as “among” because he saying that they are as a group God's b_____ (see v. 9)
 - 3) There are several places in this letter where the Greek word “en” is translated as among (e.g. 1:10,11; 2:2,6).
- B. When we gather together
 1. We do not have to p_____ for God's Spirit to be among us. God has already declared it as a fact!
 2. God's Spirit is present among us not in a passive way (i.e. He is not simply o_____ us).
 3. God's Spirit is a_____ working among us.

The one act you should avoid (17)

If anyone destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.

- A. Because the assembly of Christians is h_____, it needs to be treated that way, otherwise God’s discipline will be upon the guilty.
 - 1. The same Greek word is used of God’s action and the guilty person’s action and can be translated as destroy, ruin, corrupt, kill. This action is on the i_____, not on the church.
 - 2. We avoid “ruining” God’s assembly by treating it h_____, expecting the Spirit of God to work among us.
- B. What work might the Spirit be doing among us?
 - 1. Bring s_____ to a lost person (1Cor 14:23-25)
 - 2. Bring c_____ to the hurting (2Cor 1:3,4)
 - 3. Bring conviction to a believer in s_____ (Jms 5:16)
 - 4. Bring – a bunch of possibilities
- C. Some Christians might avoid coming to church
 - 1. Because of unresolved i_____ - the church might be where resolution can begin.
 - 2. Because church is not a p_____ - we must see ourselves as individually important to the Spirit’s work among us as a group.
 - 3. Avoiding church is treating the gathering as unholy!

Conclusion:

- A. One FACT to know – our gathering together is a temple of God where God’s Spirit is actively working among us.
- B. One ACT to avoid – treating our gathering as unholy
- C. What will you do to contribute to the atmosphere of our gatherings so that God’s presence is obvious to all?
 - 1. If only two of us believers are gathered in Christ name
 - 2. If 50% of us believers are gathered in Christ’s name
 - 3. If a majority of us believers are gathered in Christ’s name
 - 4. If 100% of us believers are gathered in Christ’s name

Let us all lay aside our sins and depend on the Lord, anticipating the Spirit to mightily work among us.