

The Church is not a building in terms of heavenly perspective. It is the people of God and the very bride of Christ. Each of our individual bodies is a temple for the Holy Spirit. The church, as a body, is to spread the Gospel and prepare each believer for works of service unto God. We are also to achieve a unity of faith and attain fullness in Christ together. Each believer has significant contributions to make and we are to encourage one another. We are the body, and Christ is the head of the body.

- Acts 17:24 "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.
- Eph 2:21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,
- 1 Cor 3:16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?
- 2 Tim 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.
- Eph 4:12-13 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;
- Eph 1:22-23 And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.
- Romans 12:5-6 so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, *let us use them*: if prophecy, *let us prophesy* in proportion to our faith;
- Heb 10:24-25 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.
- 2 Cor 6:16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."
- 1 Cor 12:24-26 but our presentable *parts* have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that *part* which lacks it, that there should be no schism in the body, but *that* the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with *it*; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with *it*.

**Discussion Item 1:** *How do you fit into the body (church) of Christ?*

**Discussion Item 2:** *What evidence in your own life demonstrates that your body is a temple for the Holy Spirit?*

**Life Application:** *Develop an attitude of unity towards your local church from God's perspective and help out those in need of maturity in Christ.*

---

**Helpful Definition:**

temple - A building dedicated to religious ceremonies or worship. Something regarded as having within it a divine presence. (Webster).

---

**Notes:**

**Temple** first used of the tabernacle, which is called "the temple of the Lord" (1 Sam 1:9). In the New Testament the word is used figuratively of Christ's human body (John 2:19, 21). Believers are called "the temple of God" (1 Cor 3:16-17). The Church is designated "a holy temple in the Lord" (Eph 2:21). Heaven is also called a temple (Rev 7:5). (Easton).

---

**Proverb 14:30** A sound heart *is* life to the body, But envy *is* rottenness to the bones.

**Psalms 10:17** LORD, You have heard the desire of the humble; You will prepare their heart; You will cause Your ear to hear,