

THE TALE OF TWO CHURCHES
Part IIIb
“Things The Corinthians Did Not Know”
1st Co. 3:16

INTRODUCTION

- I. THE CORINTHIANS WERE IGNORANT CONCERNING THEIR BODIES BEING THE DWELLING PLACE FOR DEITY. 1st Co. 3:16
 - A. The pagan world was accustomed to the ideal of men building temples for their gods to dwell.
 1. Trinkets were produced in accordance with the practice. Cf. Acts 19:24 (to the temple of Diana)
 2. Paul addressed the practices in his apostolic journeys.
 3. Stephen and Paul proclaimed a God Who didn't dwell in temples made by human hands. Acts 7:48 (Stephen in his address to the Jews); Acts 17:24 (in Paul's address to the Gentiles)
 - B. The word for “temple” is the Greek word naos which is used more than 40 times in the New Testament.
 1. “Naos” is a word used Scripture to indicate the inner-most temple (Holy of Holies) where God dwelt. cf. Heb. 9:3 (hagia, hagian -- holy of holies); Ex. 26:33 (qodesh of the qodesh -- “most holy place”)
 2. The Lord compared His human body to a temple. Matt. 26:61
 3. Naos is that part of the temple where deity resided. Matt. 27:51 (it was the location of the veil of the temple was torn after the Lord's death)
 - C. Believers are a quality of dwelling place for the true and living God, today. 1st Co. 3:16
 1. “Ye are” is the use of the “to be” verb notes a present tense dwelling -- ye are continually being in present time.
 2. The word “that” (hoti) is the object of what the Corinthians did not know. Cf.
 3. “Naos” is used without the word “the” to note a quality of a temple as opposed to “the” temple which is in the third heaven. 1st Co. 3:16
 4. Paul uses the anarthorous form of theos to note deity in general. 1st Co. 3:16
- II. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S INDWELLING WAS SPECIFICALLY EMPHASIZED TO THE CORINTHIANS. 1st Co. 6:19
 - A. The Corinthians were ignorant of the Spirit's indwelling.

1. The "Spirit of God dwelleth in you" (textual problem that belongs in the text). 1st Co. 3:16
 - a) The word "in you" is *okei en humin* -- is housed in you. Rom. 8:11
 - b) The housing of the Spirit in one is proof of salvation. Rom. 8:9
 2. "Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit". 1st Co. 6:19
- B. Paul uses the indwelling of the Spirit to warn believers against engaging in sexual sin. 1st Co. 6:19
1. Paul warns the Corinthians against fornication (Greek word *porneia*; found in this form 25 times in the New Testament. Vs. 18
 - a) It is used of adultery. Matt. 5:32
 - b) Comes out of the heart of man. Matt. 15:19
 2. Paul uses the connective particle "ay" (or) to explain why the Corinthians should avoid fornication. Vs. 19
 - a) Translation: "Your body is a temple belonging to the Holy Spirit, the One in you."
 - b) Translation: "Who ye are having from deity (used without the Greek article noting the true God) cf. John 13:3; 16:30 (used of the Father); Heb. 3:12; Ja. 1:13
 - c) Translation: "Ye are continually not your yourselves".
 - (1) The verb *eimi* notes continuous action in present time -- there is never a time.
 - (2) "Your own" translates the reflexive pronoun *heautou* which emphasizes one doing something to or for himself/herself. Cf. 1st Co. 10:24 (one seeking his own good); 3:18 (of one deceiving himself)
 - (a) The basis for the believer not being his own is that he was "brought" -- *agarazo* (aor. Pass. ind.) -- to be purchased with a price. Cf. 1st Co. 7:23; 2 Pet. 2:1
 - (b) The response of the believer should be to glorify God in two places that belong to God:
 - (i) Body
 - (ii) Spirit -- the seat of the believer's rational. cf. Eph. 4:23 (place where believer is renewed); 1:17 (can be one of wisdom and revelation)

III. THE CORINTHIANS WERE IGNORANT OF GOD'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS A BELIEVER CORRUPTING THE TEMPLE OF HIS BODY. 1st Co. 3:17

A. The word "defile" is the Greek word *phtheiro* which is used in Scripture of:

1. "**To corrupt, to deprave, to destroy.**" -- A. T. Robertson

2. **“Cause change from a good condition to one that ends in ruin.”**--
Danker lexicon
 3. The word is used in the context of Scripture of marring something from a state less than it was intended for. Cf. 2 Co. 11:3 (of the working of the mind); Eph. 4:22 (the old man)
- B. There is a question as to whether Paul is referring to a church wrecker or one’s personal life.
1. Robertson states: ***“It is a gross sin to be a church-wrecker. There are actually a few preachers who leave behind them ruin like a tornado in their path.”***
 2. Adam Clarke states: ***“The verb is the same in both clauses. If any man injure, corrupt, or destroy the Church of God by false doctrine, God will destroy him - will take away his part out of the book of life.”***
- C. Paul did not have the “church wrecker” in mind with the use of the word “corruption”, but the one defiling his body. Vs. 17
1. The phrase “If any man defile the temple of God” can be translated thusly:
 - a) “If” (conditional particle with the indicative mood is used to express -- ***since***)
 - b) “Any man” (***a certain one***)
 - c) “Defile (pres. Act. ind. -- is defiling; corrupting) the temple of God”
 - d) “For the temple of God is holy (set apart)”
 2. The temple of God is seen as the individual believers, not the local church. Vs. 17
 - a) “Which temple ye are”. -- KJV
 - b) “And that is what ye are” -- NAS

CONCLUSION