

A Temple in Sin City (1 Corinthians 3:16-17)

- I. **Introduction**
 - A. *The Feast of Tabernacles* – harvest fields and tents (Lev 23:34-44)
 - B. Solomon’s Temple (1 Kings 6:19-23, 1 Chr 22:14-16)
 - 1. The grandeur and beauty
 - 2. A depiction of creation
 - 3. Garden-like qualities
 - C. Reminder of the context
 - 1. Garden and building metaphor of vss. 5-15 (specifically vs. 9)
 - 2. Both metaphors point to one specific building – the Temple
- II. **1 Corinthians 3:16-17**
 - A. “*You are God’s Temple*”
 - 1. The importance of this text to the entire epistle
 - 2. A startling and honorable reality
 - B. Verse 16
 - 1. “*Do you not know ...*”
 - 2. “*You are God’s Temple.*”
 - a. corporate not individual
 - b. God’s people as a Temple (Ex 25:8, 29:44-45, Lev 26:11-12, Ps 114:2, Ez 11:16, Josephus, Philo)
 - 3. Demonstrates the Deity of the Holy Spirit
 - C. Verse 17
 - 1. Extends the warning of vss. 10,11,13 & 15
 - 2. *Anyone*
 - 3. A sentence of holy law – *an eye for an eye*
 - 4. The grounds for such a threat – the temple is *holy*
 - a. Nadab and Abihu (Lev 10:1-2)
 - b. other warnings (Deu 4:2, Pr 30:6, Rev 22:18-19)
 - c. Uzzah, Saul, Jeroboam, Ananias & Sapphira
 - 5. The Seriousness of sin against the holy temple
- III. **How might the temple of God be defiled?**
 - A. Pride
 - B. Heresy
 - C. Building on false conversions
 - D. Legalism or Antinomianism
 - E. Letting peripheral matters dominate the church’s agenda
 - 1. Entertainment, altar calls, role of men, lavish buildings
 - F. Neglecting assembling together
 - G. Misuse of Christian Liberty (Rom 14:15.20, 1Co 8:11, Gal 5:13-15)
 - H. Factions, Divisions, Dissensions (A grave warning!)
 - I. Permitting and not disciplining willful continual sin
- IV. **We are His Temple ... so act like it!**
 - A. He says this while the physical temple is still standing
 - B. *You ARE His Temple!* What if we REALLY believed this?
 - C. May God conform us to the image of His final temple (Rev 21:27)