



Jesus' Followers Are God's Holy Temple **1 Corinthians 3:10-23**

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's (1 Corinthians 3:16, 17, 23 —ESV).

In his Letter to the Colossians, Paul wrote about a mystery that had been hidden for ages and generations that God had at last revealed to His saints, to those God the Father sets apart to follow and serve Jesus Christ, the Son of God. In Colossians 1:27, Paul wrote, "To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." No one needs to travel to a temple or church building to get closer to God, because they can become followers of Jesus and no one can get closer to God than those God sets apart to love and obey Jesus Christ, for Jesus Christ dwells within them. Despite the Corinthian Christians failures and sins in the church, Paul reminded them they are God's temple and God's Spirit dwelt in them. Jesus promised to give us the Spirit of Truth to be within us when He said in John 14:15-17, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you." Even more decisively, perhaps, Jesus said in John 14:23, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." No matter how much we may suffer or be persecuted, as true followers of Jesus Christ we can have confidence that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit dwell within us. Paul emphasized that Jesus' followers are temples of God. Wherever we go the temple of God goes with and within us. Our temple is holy because God has set us apart from the world for holy use and our Holy God lives within us. Though we are still tempted to sin and not yet perfect, as Jesus' followers we are growing in the knowledge and love of God and we are living increasingly as the Spirit of Truth leads us.