

God's Temple

1 Cor. 3:18-23

"We damage the temple of God when we mistreat each other in the church, or seek our own way, or grab power in the church. We damage His temple whenever we show favoritism or disfavor based on race or politics or economic class. We harm His temple whenever we allow sin to go unjudged in our own lives or within the congregation.

We damage God's temple whenever we allow the church to be infected by formalism (reliance upon ceremonies and rituals), or by emotionalism or mysticism (seeking religious ecstasy of righteousness and relationship), or by asceticism (taking smug pride in observing legalistic rules or trying to prove ourselves more spiritual than others). God takes these sins against His temple very seriously—so seriously, Paul warns, that anyone who corrupts God's temple will himself be corrupted." Stedman

- I. We are warned in Scripture to take Christ's church very seriously. It is not a playground for us to play in, or an object to play with, or something to shape and form into what we want it to be as a source of power, money, or fame. It is the precious body of Christ made up of believers he shed his blood for. It is a place where God's glory dwells. Therefore, we need to be very careful we don't defile or corrupt it with the world's godless wisdom.

1 Cor. 3:16-17

Eph. 4:30-31

Matt. 7:21-23

Eph. 2:19-22

ναός naós = temple – used of the temple at Jerusalem, but only of the sacred edifice (or sanctuary) itself, consisting of the Holy place and the Holy of Holies. metaph. the spiritual temple consisting of the saints of all ages joined together by and in Christ

- II. Worldly wisdom comes from man's sinful nature and the prince of this world. It is a powerful force that seems right, but it is not the kind of wisdom that has any place in God's temple, the church. The world looks at God's wisdom as foolishness. God looks at the world's wisdom as useless and foolish. When a church embraces the world's wisdom, it is telling God that what he has to offer through his Spirit is foolish and useless to them. Consequently, that church builds upon the foundation of Christ with nothing of eternal value.

1 Cor. 3:18-20

Job 5:13

Psalm 94:11

- III. All life is ours in Christ Jesus. It has been given to us to enjoy through his divine power. The only way for us to thrive together as one, is to live by His wisdom so that we can build upon the foundation of Christ in ways that bring high honor to his name.

1 Cor. 3:21-23

2 Peter 1:3-4 *3His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 4Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.*