

We Are the Temple of the Living God

Introduction and Review

- As ambassadors for Christ, God works with & pleads through believers for people to obey Him (v. 1-2)
- As ambassadors for Christ, believers must have a clear conscience & remove sinful obstacles in their lives (v. 3-4a)
- As ambassadors for Christ, believers must endure hardships (v. vb-5), live with integrity (v. 6-7) & find contentment in all circumstances (v. 8-10)
- As ambassadors for Christ, believers know that genuine & unconditional forgiveness is essential for reconciliation (v. 11-13)

I. The Temple in Covenant With People (v. 14-16a)

A. The exhortation (v. 14)

The Christian must not enter a covenant, partnership or alliance with an unbeliever – “unequally yoked”. OT concept: Lev. 19:19; Deut. 22:10. This exhortation includes: religion (1Co. 10:6-22), marriage (1Co. 7:39) & business (Am. 3:3).

B. The explanation (v. 15-16a)

The reasons unequally yoked alliances are forbidden: no partnership, no fellowship, no accord, no portion & no agreement. The contrasts: righteousness/lawlessness, light/darkness, Christ/Belial & temple of God/idols.

God's people must be selective in making binding relationships with other people.

II. The Temple in Covenant With God (v. 16b-7:1)

A. The declaration (v. 16b)

Individually & collectively, believers are the body of Christ or “the temple of the living God” (1Co. 6:16-20; 3:16-17). The Holy Spirit miraculously dwells in each believer & among believers

B. The explanation (v. 16c-7:1)

Believers belong to God & are blessed by His faithful presence (v. 16c). Believers are actually God's children & must live accordingly (v. 18). Therefore God's people must be sanctified & holy (v. 17; 7:1).

God's people must be holy in relationship with Him!