

Together by Design: God's Plan for His Church

Metaphor #6 "Building"

June 20, 2021

The church is where the Holy Spirit brings together believers in Jesus according to God's design.

1. What is God's permanent **address** ?
(1 Kings 8:27, 30 and Acts 7:48-49)
2. Where did God choose for His glory and Name dwell?
tabernacle mobile (Exodus 40:34-35) **temple** stationary (1 Kings 8:10-11, 20)
3. The church is now the dwelling place of God (Eph. 2:20-22)
 - a. The **foundation** (20a)
 - Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 3:11)
 - The "apostles and prophets" (Eph. 2:20a; 3:5; 4:11)
 - b. The **cornerstone** (20b)
 - Jesus Christ (Isa. 28:16 = 1 Pet. 2:6)
see also Psa. 118:22 = Luke 20:17 = Acts 4:11
 - c. The building blocks (21)
 - "in Him" = in Christ. **living** stones" (1 Pet. 2:5)
 - **static** "joined together" and dynamic "growing"
 - d. The **glory** (22)
What makes someone holy? The presence of the Holy Spirit
 - a believer (1 Cor. 6:19) "*his own body . . . your body*"
 - a **local** church (1 Cor. 3:16) pl. "*you yourselves*"
 - the universal church (Eph. 2:21) "*the whole building*"
 - e. How do people visiting our church know God is "**IN?**"

Some Scriptures Used In Today's Sermon

²⁷ "But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!"

³⁰ Hear the supplication of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive." (1 Kings 8:27 and 30, NIV)

³⁴ Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. ³⁵ Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. (Exodus 40:34-35, NIV)

¹⁰ When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the Lord. ¹¹ And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled his temple.

²⁰ "The Lord has kept the promise he made: I have succeeded David my father and now I sit on the throne of Israel, just as the Lord promised, and I have built the temple for the Name of the Lord, the God of Israel. (1 Kings 8:10-11 and 20, NIV)

²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. (Ephesians 2:20-22)

"Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on: you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make sense. What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of—throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were going to be made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself." C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* "Counting the Cost"