

We are the Living Temple of God

The Temple played a significant role in the life of the ancient Israelites. It was their place of worship, but more importantly, it represented the presence of God among them. This is the awe and significance the New Testament writers want to convey when they apply temple imagery to the Church. God's people, the Church, are the Living Temple of God, God's very presence with his people. Studying the image of the Church as a Living Temple and digging into the Old Testament roots of that image gives us a greater understanding of the relationship God desires to reestablish with us. It also anchors our faith when human brokenness overshadows and threatens to distract us from the truth of our holiness as God's beloved people.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- What was the Old Testament temple and what was its purpose?
- What do you think it means to “dwell with” someone?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [*We are the Living Temple of God*](#)

READ [Ephesians 2:19-22](#), [John 1:14](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- As he closes segment 2, host Scott Hoezee says, “Individually, we are temples of the Holy Spirit; collectively, we [the Church] are the temple of God in this creation.” Recall their discussion of the definition and purpose of the Old Testament temple, and then, spend some time reflecting on your experience as the temple of the Holy Spirit. What do you feel that you do well reflecting the Holy Spirit who dwells in you? In what ways would you like to improve? What about the Church? What do you think the Church does well as the temple of God, and where do you think it needs to improve in its role as God's temple?
- Dave and Scott both acknowledge that the Church is comprised of imperfect people and we do not always look or act like the temple of God. And yet we are holy people and God chooses to dwell with us. At the start of segment 3, Dave uses the phrase “God is in this place” to describe what Church should be, comparing it to Jacob's awareness of God after his dream in [Genesis 28](#). Can you identify times in your experience with the universal Church when you have most felt like “God is in this place”?
- When do you most need to be reminded of who you are: a holy, temple of the Holy Spirit with whom God desires to dwell?
- What does it mean to you that God persisted in creating ways to dwell with his people? What does it tell you about his character?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Psalm 118:22-24](#), [Exodus 40:34-35](#), [1 Kings 8:10-13](#), [Ezekiel 11:22-23](#), [John 2:18-21](#), [1 Corinthians 6:19-20](#), [John 4:21-23](#), [1 Peter 2:4-9](#), [Revelation 21:1-3, 22](#)

CONCLUSION

Towards the close of the episode, Dave points out that we could look at all the ways we fail and question whether or not it's really true that Christ lives within us. Instead, spend time reflecting on where you DO see evidence that Jesus Christ lives within you and that God dwells with his Church. As you identify evidence of his presence in and with his living temple, pause and offer a prayer of praise and thanksgiving.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/we-are-the-living-temple-of-god>

Printed on July 25, 2025