

Message:

Text: 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

Main points:

We are God's Temple . . . by his choice

We are God's Temple . . . by his sacrifice

We are God's Temple . . . in his presence

Questions:

1. What comes to your mind when you think of Sunday morning worship? Do you think of the gathered church as a temple of God?
2. What most compels you to come? How do you evaluate a good Sunday service? How do you evaluate a less effective one?
3. How should we live in light of the promised presence of God in Sunday gatherings? How should we lead our children? what would it look like to cultivate your faith for God's promised presence?

QUOTES

Every so often a magazine article appears reporting the results of a survey taken among persons who go to church. The pollster asks, "Why do you go to this church?" and gets a variety of trivial answers: "I want my children to learn Bible stories"; "I like the preacher"; "There is an early service and so we can still have most of the day to go sailing"; "It is the closest church," etc. Rarely, if ever, does anyone respond, "Because God called me," and yet that is the real reason. Every gathering of the people begins with a call to worship. People assemble for worship because God called them together whether they know it or not.

--Eugene Peterson

We are part of a story that began before the worlds began -- in the intimate and glorious love and mutual relationship in the Godhead . . . and the story continues until the end of the age when God shall have made his people his dwelling and they shall be taken up into the glorious dance of the Godhead. --Michael Horton

On the whole, I do not find Christians, outside the catacombs, sufficiently sensible of the conditions. Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we so blithely invoke? The churches are children playing on the floor with their chemistry sets, mixing up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday morning. It is madness to wear ladies' velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews. --Annie Dillard