

It Is Not About Us!

By Russ Earl

Tattoos, piercings, wild hair colors, attention grabbing clothing. We all have seen these things. People of the world are concerned about their appearance. Some desire to blend in, while others desperately try to stand out. When is the last time you saw a church building with their walls in multiple colors? How many times have you seen a church building with graffiti? So many have the false idea that the church building is the “*temple* of God or the “house” of God. No one would want the building to look bad.

We are told that we are the temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:17). If we are the temple of God, then why do so many defile it! Not only by their outward appearance but by their actions and attitudes they defile the temple of God. We are warned that if one defiles the temple of God, “God shall destroy them” (1 Corinthians 3:16). Do we live such lives that show that the Spirit dwells in us? Many have poor attitudes that quickly surface when they are told they are defiling the temple of God. How can we hear that the Spirit dwells within us and then do things that defile the temple? How can we do things that bring shame and hypocrisy when we are claiming to be a New Testament Christian?

Does the Holy Spirit dwell within us? Why do we become so weak, so easily swayed that we do things that bring shame on the name of Christ? Why do we do things that bring shame on our brothers and sisters in Christ? We fail to realize that our lives are not about us! That’s right, they are about a Man who was sent from God to save us from our own sins. We are to do things that bring honor and glory to the name of Christ. When we do such things as tattoos and piercings, we catalog ourselves with the world. We say “Look I am one of you”, then on Sundays we say “I am of Christ” We can not serve the world and the Lord (Luke 16:13). We must realize we are the temple of God, and the things we do reflect upon Him. If we do such things, then people of the world begin to think it’s OK to do these things. These actions bring defilement upon us,- the temple of God.

We are to be as Christ wants us to be: *Christ-like*. We are to be imitators of Paul who strived to imitate Christ. If we realize that it’s not about us, we will begin to realize it is about Christ. We will bring honor to the temple of God. People will see the light of Christ in us. Then they see the light of Christ which will lead them to the truth. We cannot have the light of Christ in us if we defile His temple. We cannot worry about what the world thinks of us.

We can never please everyone but we can please someone. There is only one place that we need acceptance. There is only one place that we need to give honor to. There is only one God, and He deserves our undivided attention. He prepared the way for us by prophets and kings, and finally by His Son. Surely we can bring honor to His temple, honor to His name, and honor to His church. If we set our minds on things that are spiritual and not things of the world, if we decide its all about Christ and not us, then we will bring joy to the Father. Our bodies will become a temple for the Lord and His Spirit will abide in us.

The Father deserves a Holy Temple does He not? He is worthy of the best, the clean, the pure, the honest, and the willing found in the right temple. Are we the temple we should be for God? Have we defiled God’s temple or have we cleansed it and prepared a place that is worthy for the Spirit of God to dwell?

Let us strive to have the knowledge, the courage, the strength, and the will to bring honor to God and His temple. We should no longer desire the things of the world but put off the things

of our “old man” and desire to put on the “new man” (Ephesians 4:22-24). To put on Christ is to allow His Spirit to dwell in us-to dwell in a temple undefiled.