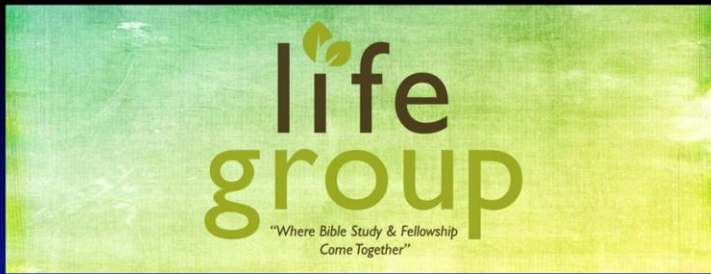


**Welcome to the Worship Celebration of**



SIMPLY BIBLICAL | FAMILY INTEGRATED



**LIFE Group ...**

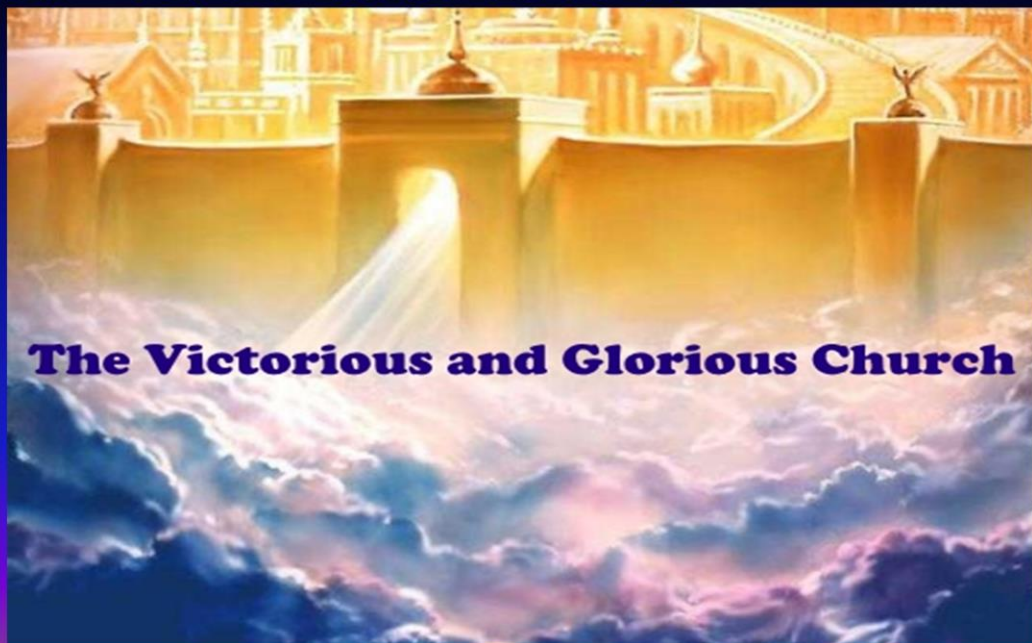
**6:30 pm at the Thomas' home on Wed. evenings  
Bring your Bibles, your Notebook, an  
Expectant heart and a prayerful-thankful attitude  
to Experience the Presence, the Power and the  
Purpose of Jesus Christ, together**





## **The Victorious and Glorious Church**

## Review – Part 1 – Matt. 16:16-19



**The Victorious and Glorious Church**



## Review – Part 1 – Matt. 16:16-19

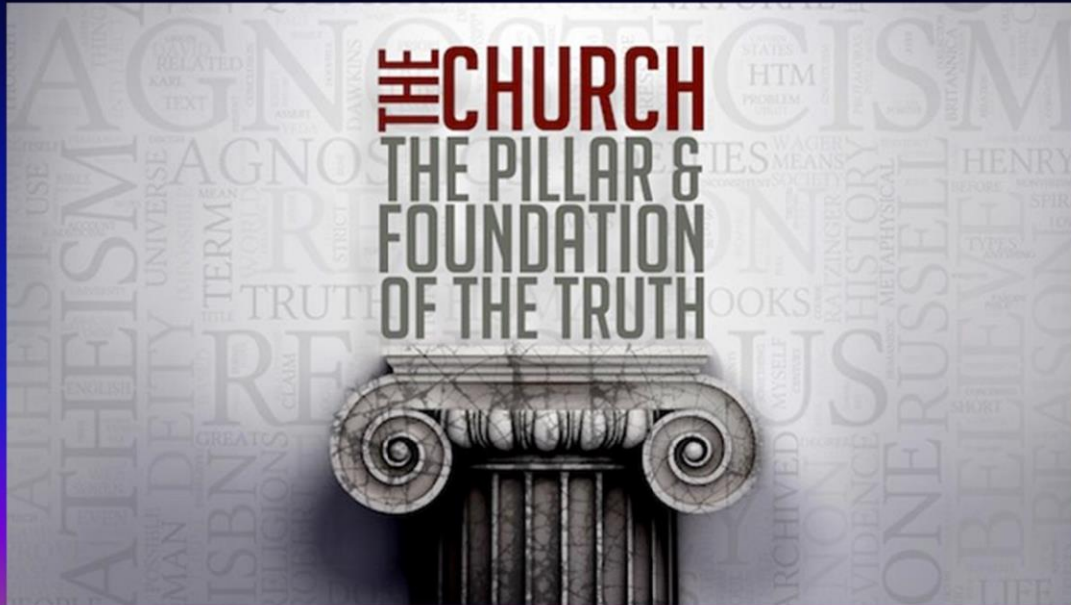
**The Victorious, Triumphant Mission of the Church – “I will build My church, and the Gates of Hades will not prevail against it” - vs 18.**

### GATES & KEYS



## Review – Part 2 – 1 Timothy 3:15

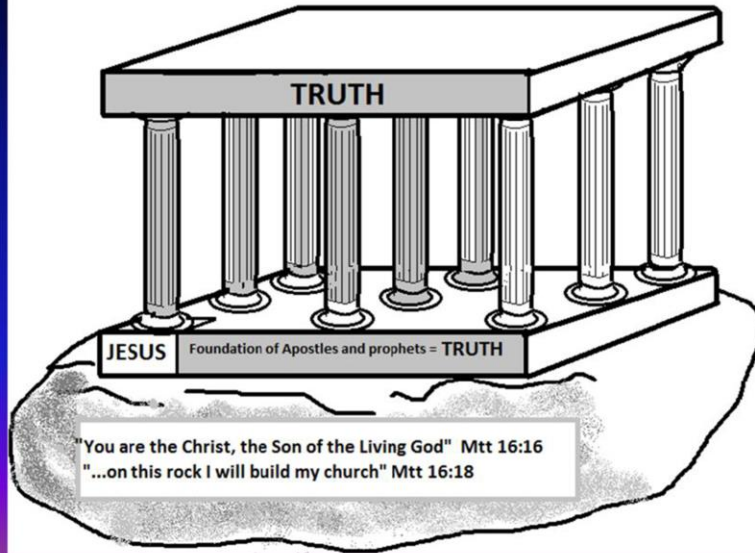
## The Victorious and Glorious Church, Part 2



## Review – Part 2 – 1 Timothy 3:15

### The Victorious and Glorious Church, Part 2

The church of Christ is built on the Truth and supports the truth (Matt. 16:18, 1 Timothy 3:15, Ephesians 2:20-22).



## Review – Part 3 – Ephesians 5:25-27

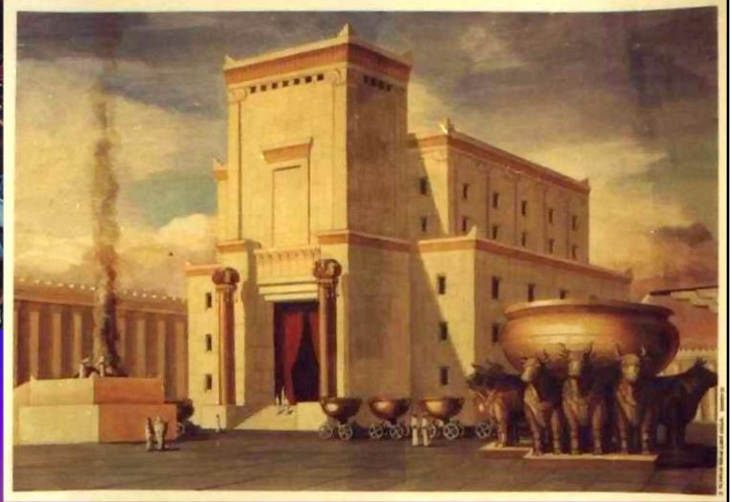
### The Glorious BRIDE of CHRIST





# The Victorious and Glorious Church, Part 4

## The HOLY, Spiritual, LIVING TEMPLE of CHRIST



## **The HOLY, Spiritual, LIVING TEMPLE of CHRIST**

### **Ephesians 2:14-22**

**For He Himself (i.e. Jesus Christ) is our PEACE, who has made BOTH ONE, and has BROKEN DOWN the middle WALL OF SEPARATION, <sup>15</sup> having ABOLISHED in His flesh the ENMITY, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself ONE NEW MAN from the two, thus making PEACE, <sup>16</sup> and that He might RECONCILE them BOTH to God in one body through the CROSS, thereby putting to death the enmity. <sup>17</sup> And He came and preached PEACE to you who were afar off and to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through Him WE BOTH have access by ONE Spirit to the Father.**

#### **Main Text for Today (01/17/2016)**

**Ephesians 2:14-22 - For He Himself (i.e. Jesus Christ) is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, <sup>15</sup> having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup> and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. <sup>17</sup> And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.**

**<sup>19</sup> Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole building, being fitted together, GROWS into a HOLY TEMPLE in the LORD, <sup>22</sup> in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.**

# **The HOLY, Spiritual, LIVING TEMPLE of CHRIST**

## **Ephesians 2:14-22**

**<sup>19</sup> Now, therefore, you are NO longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole building, being FITTED TOGETHER, GROWS into a HOLY TEMPLE in the LORD, <sup>22</sup> in whom you also are BEING BUILT TOGETHER for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.**

### **Main Text for Today (01/17/2016)**

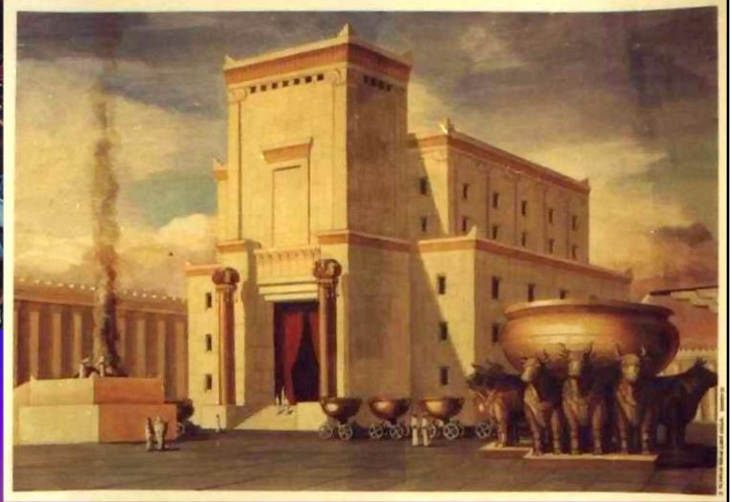
**Ephesians 2:14-22** - For He Himself (i.e. Jesus Christ) is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, <sup>15</sup> having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup> and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. <sup>17</sup> And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

**<sup>19</sup> Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole building, being fitted together, GROWS into a HOLY TEMPLE in the LORD, <sup>22</sup> in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.**



# The Victorious and Glorious Church, Part 4

## The HOLY, Spiritual, LIVING TEMPLE of CHRIST



# The HOLY, Spiritual, LIVING TEMPLE of CHRIST

## 1. The Temple of God – Eph. 2:14-18

this is the Picture the apostle Paul is using as an **EXAMPLE** ...

**Either the Tabernacle in the Wilderness or the Temple of God (of Solomon) in Jerusalem. Paul is using the Physical Temple as an ILLUSTRATION of a deeper Spiritual Meaning ...**

**The FOCUS of the Temple is WORSHIP**

**Old Covenant → The Physical Temple**

**New Covenant → The Living Temple**



Facts regarding the Church being the Living Temple of God

### 1. The Temple of God in Jerusalem (some background) – Eph. 2:14-18

The Tabernacle in the Wilderness ☐ The Temple of Solomon ☐ Rebuilt after the Babylonian Captivity (see Ezra and Nehemiah, Haggai, Malachi, Zechariah)

It was a Place of WORSHIP, Praise, Thanksgiving, and Sacrifice (remember this)

In the Temple Complex ☐ Various Courts ☐ for Men, for Women, and then for Gentiles (non-Israelis)

The Court of the Gentiles is the place that Jesus overturned the Tables of those selling animals

-- thus there was no room for Gentiles to come and Worship and Pray, etc. (Mark 11:15-17)

In between each was a Separating Wall. In Christ, today, we are all equal before God, the Wall of Separation has been removed, the Veil was torn, and now, the Temple has been destroyed.

We, now, all, male, female, Israeli/Jew, or Gentile ... we all have the same equal access to God the Father, through Jesus Christ, His Son, in the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18) ... Paul is using the Picture of the Physical Temple.

The Physical Temple represented the OLD Covenant.

The New Living Temple, in Christ (in the Messiah) in the Spirit, represents the New Covenant

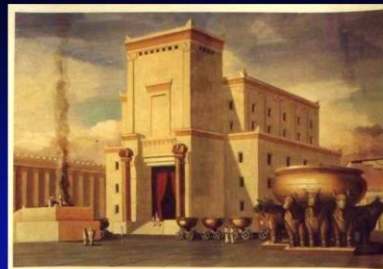


# The HOLY, Spiritual, LIVING TEMPLE of CHRIST

## 2. The Living Temple of God – Eph. 2:19-22

**Picture of the church is of a Living, Growing TEMPLE - A Dwelling Place of God's Spirit**

**Just like the Physical Temple, this Spiritual, Living Temple is a Dwelling Place of the Spirit of God and it's focused on Worship.**



### **2. Picture of the church is of a Living, Growing TEMPLE - A Dwelling Place of God's Spirit**

The Apostle Paul is talking about people, groups of different kinds of people ... that make up this new, living and growing temple. It is founded upon JESUS Christ, His Apostles and the Prophets of God (i.e. Jesus Christ & The Whole Bible). Just like the Physical Temple, this **Spiritual, Living Temple** is a Dwelling Place of the Spirit of God and it's focused on **Worship**. (Eph. 2:19-22)

Just like the physical temple was composed of bricks, stones, mortar, etc. the New Living Temple is composed of **people**, in Christ (like building blocks) → we are **LIVING STONES** 1 Peter 2:5 → you also, as **LIVING STONES**, are being built up as a **SPIRITUAL HOUSE**, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

And **Jesus** referenced that even the “**stones would immediately cry out**” if folks were kept silent instead of worshipping Jesus Christ in His Triumphant entry into Jerusalem (**Luke 19:40**).

**The TEMPLE that Grows and is ALIVE** → it is Fitted together (see Eph. 4:11-16), it Grows, it is being built up ... growing into a **HOLY TEMPLE** ... it is growing and becoming **HOLY** It is **HOLY** because of **WHO Dwells in Her** ... God the Holy Spirit. The Picture is of a Living Temple . . .

Like a Tree that Grows and Bears Fruit ... Like a few trees becoming a Forest

Like a Meadow that Grows and Grows and covers ... Living and Growing ... like living cells that are organized to become a Human Body . . .

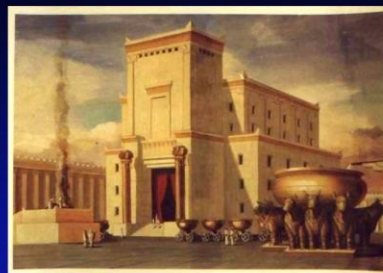
# The HOLY, Spiritual, LIVING TEMPLE of CHRIST

## 2. The Living Temple of God – Eph. 2:19-22

Just like the physical temple was composed of bricks, stones, mortar, etc. the **New Living Temple** is composed of **people**, in Christ (like building blocks) → we are **LIVING STONES**

**1 Peter 2:5** → you also, as **LIVING STONES**, are being built up as a **SPIRITUAL HOUSE**, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

And **Jesus** referenced that even the “**stones would immediately cry out**” if folks were kept silent instead of **worshipping** Jesus Christ in His Triumphant entry into Jerusalem (**Luke 19:40**).



### 2. Picture of the church is of a Living, Growing TEMPLE - A Dwelling Place of God's Spirit

The Apostle Paul is talking about people, groups of different kinds of people ... that make up this new, living and growing temple. It is founded upon JESUS Christ, His Apostles and the Prophets of God (i.e. Jesus Christ & The Whole Bible). Just like the Physical Temple, this **Spiritual, Living Temple** is a Dwelling Place of the Spirit of God and it's focused on **Worship**. (Eph. 2:19-22)

Just like the physical temple was composed of bricks, stones, mortar, etc. the New Living Temple is composed of **people**, in Christ (like building blocks) → we are **LIVING STONES**  
**1 Peter 2:5** → you also, as **LIVING STONES**, are being built up as a **SPIRITUAL HOUSE**, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

And **Jesus** referenced that even the “**stones would immediately cry out**” if folks were kept silent instead of worshipping Jesus Christ in His Triumphant entry into Jerusalem (**Luke 19:40**).

**The TEMPLE that Grows and is ALIVE** → it is Fitted together (see Eph. 4:11-16), it Grows, it is being built up ... growing into a **HOLY TEMPLE** ... it is growing and becoming **HOLY**  
It is **HOLY** because of **WHO** Dwells in Her ... God the Holy Spirit. The Picture is of a Living Temple . . .

Like a Tree that Grows and Bears Fruit ... Like a few trees becoming a Forest

Like a Meadow that Grows and Grows and covers ... Living and Growing ... like living cells that are organized to become a Human Body . . .



# The HOLY, Spiritual, LIVING TEMPLE of CHRIST

## 2. The Living Temple of God – Eph. 2:19-22

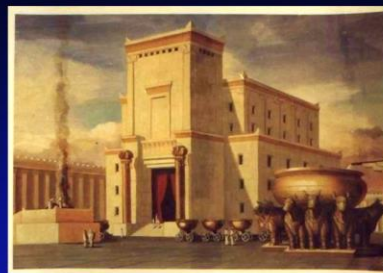
The **TEMPLE** that Grows and is **ALIVE** → it is **Fitted** together (see Eph. 4:11-16), it Grows, it is being built up ... **growing** into a **HOLY TEMPLE** ... it is growing and becoming **HOLY**

It is **HOLY** because of **WHO Dwells in Her** ...

**God the Holy Spirit.** The Picture is of a Living Temple . . .

Like a Tree that Grows and Bears Fruit ... Like a few trees becoming a Forest

Like a Meadow that Grows and Grows and covers ... Living and Growing ... like living cells that are organized to become a **Human Body**



### 2. Picture of the church is of a Living, Growing TEMPLE - A Dwelling Place of God's Spirit

The Apostle Paul is talking about people, groups of different kinds of people ... that make up this new, living and growing temple. It is founded upon JESUS Christ, His Apostles and the Prophets of God (i.e. Jesus Christ & The Whole Bible). Just like the Physical Temple, this **Spiritual, Living Temple** is a Dwelling Place of the Spirit of God and it's focused on **Worship**. (Eph. 2:19-22)

Just like the physical temple was composed of bricks, stones, mortar, etc. the New Living Temple is composed of **people**, in Christ (like building blocks) → we are **LIVING STONES** 1 Peter 2:5 → you also, as **LIVING STONES**, are being built up as a **SPIRITUAL HOUSE**, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

And **Jesus** referenced that even the "**stones would immediately cry out**" if folks were kept silent instead of worshipping Jesus Christ in His Triumphant entry into Jerusalem (**Luke 19:40**).

**The TEMPLE that Grows and is ALIVE** → it is Fitted together (see Eph. 4:11-16), it Grows, it is being built up ... growing into a **HOLY TEMPLE** ... it is growing and becoming **HOLY** It is **HOLY** because of **WHO Dwells in Her** ... God the Holy Spirit. The Picture is of a Living Temple . . .

Like a Tree that Grows and Bears Fruit ... Like a few trees becoming a Forest

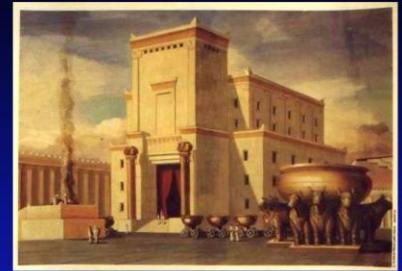
Like a Meadow that Grows and Grows and covers ... Living and Growing ... like living cells that are organized to become a Human Body . . .

# The HOLY, Spiritual, LIVING TEMPLE of CHRIST

## 3. How Does this Apply to US, today?

- a. We are **Saved, Reconciled**, Brought Near to God as **Worshippers** and **Citizens** of God's Kingdom (His Commonwealth) (Eph. 2:1-13)
- b. We No longer need to be kept **separated** because of our Ethnic Backgrounds  
Jesus Himself, by His shed Blood, Crucifixion, Death, Burial and Resurrection is our **PEACE** ... our Peace between us and God and between each other, regardless of our earthly genetic backgrounds. He broke down the walls and barriers.

**This is ONLY found in Christ**



## 3. How does this Apply to us?

- a. We are Saved, Reconciled, Brought Near to God as Worshippers and Citizen of God's Kingdom (His Commonwealth) (Eph. 2:1-13)
- b. We No longer need to be kept separated because of our Ethnic Backgrounds  
Jesus Himself, by His shed Blood, Crucifixion, Death, Burial and Resurrection is our PEACE ... our Peace between us and God and between each other, regardless of our earthly genetic backgrounds. He broke down the walls and barriers.  
This is ONLY found in Christ, not in any Governmental Program or anything else.  
True, Lasting Peace among humans is ONLY found in Christ.  
(Special NOTE: we are NOT being reconciled to non-Christians)
- c. Worship is LIVING, ORGANIC, and is at its Height when we worship God, together, when we Gather together, or assemble ourselves for that purpose.  
We EXPERIENCE GOD (or at least we should) in our innermost being (heart/soul)  
When we gather together or assemble ourselves  
(☞ that is the basic definition of "church" or "ekklesia")  
we BECOME the Dwelling Place of God, the Spirit. (Matt. 18:20 – 2 or 3 or more...)  
in Christ ... we all are, collectively (the whole Body of Christ) IS a Living Temple
- d. If we focus on Worshipping, Praising, Thanking, and Praying to God in our personal daily life, in our small group gatherings, and in our public Worship Celebrations, HE is the One Who Builds us up (Edifies us) and FITS us together for His Glorious Use

(together). It is always in relationship with others within our local church family. Each of you are, individually, LIKE a Puzzle Piece, and the other folks in our local church family are the Other Puzzle Pieces. When God fits us together ... it is a HOLY and Beautiful Picture of His Glory for His Glory (another example ☞ car parts ... that are put together to become a functioning car – useful, functioning, travelling, etc.).

Once, my focus is off me and onto Him, He does His miraculous work. WORSHIP is the key that unlocks His Growth and Transformation in our lives, TOGETHER.

The focus of my life should not be on ME, but on Growing in Christ to Glorify Christ so that I can be used of God to Build-up others in my local church family. I grow, so that my fellow “living building blocks” in Christ’s Temple can grow, as well. WE GROW TOGETHER.



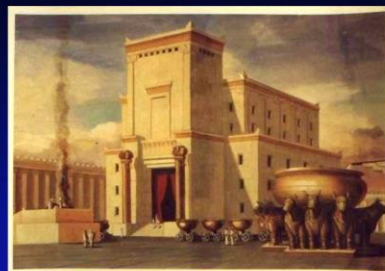
# The HOLY, Spiritual, LIVING TEMPLE of CHRIST

## 3. How Does this Apply to US, today?

- c. Worship is **LIVING, ORGANIC**, and is at its **Height** when we worship God, **together**, when we Gather together, or assemble ourselves for that purpose.

We **EXPERIENCE GOD** (or at least we should) in our **innermost being** (heart/soul)

When we **gather together** or assemble ourselves - we **BECOME** the Dwelling Place of God, the Spirit. (Matt. 18:20 – 2 or 3 or more...) **in Christ ... we all are, collectively (the whole Body of Christ) IS a Living Temple**



## 3. How does this Apply to us?

- a. We are Saved, Reconciled, Brought Near to God as Worshippers and Citizen of God's Kingdom (His Commonwealth) (Eph. 2:1-13)

- b. We No longer need to be kept separated because of our Ethnic Backgrounds Jesus Himself, by His shed Blood, Crucifixion, Death, Burial and Resurrection is our PEACE ... our Peace between us and God and between each other, regardless of our earthly genetic backgrounds. He broke down the walls and barriers.

This is ONLY found in Christ, not in any Governmental Program or anything else.

True, Lasting Peace among humans is ONLY found in Christ.

(Special NOTE: we are NOT being reconciled to non-Christians)

- c. Worship is LIVING, ORGANIC, and is at its Height when we worship God, together, when we Gather together, or assemble ourselves for that purpose.

We EXPERIENCE GOD (or at least we should) in our innermost being (heart/soul)

When we gather together or assemble ourselves

(☞ that is the basic definition of "church" or "ekklesia")

we BECOME the Dwelling Place of God, the Spirit. (Matt. 18:20 – 2 or 3 or more...)

in Christ ... we all are, collectively (the whole Body of Christ) IS a Living Temple

- d. If we focus on Worshipping, Praising, Thanking, and Praying to God in our personal daily life, in our small group gatherings, and in our public Worship Celebrations, HE is the One Who Builds us up (Edifies us) and FITS us together for His Glorious Use

(together). It is always in relationship with others within our local church family. Each of you are, individually, LIKE a Puzzle Piece, and the other folks in our local church family are the Other Puzzle Pieces. When God fits us together ... it is a HOLY and Beautiful Picture of His Glory for His Glory (another example ☞ car parts ... that are put together to become a functioning car – useful, functioning, travelling, etc.).

Once, my focus is off me and onto Him, He does His miraculous work. WORSHIP is the key that unlocks His Growth and Transformation in our lives, TOGETHER.

The focus of my life should not be on ME, but on Growing in Christ to Glorify Christ so that I can be used of God to Build-up others in my local church family. I grow, so that my fellow “living building blocks” in Christ’s Temple can grow, as well. WE GROW TOGETHER.

# The HOLY, Spiritual, LIVING TEMPLE of CHRIST

## 3. How Does this Apply to US, today?

- d. When We **FOCUS** on Worshiping God – He **Transforms** us, Edifies Us, Equips Us, **Knits Us TOGETHER** → **FITS US TOGETHER**

Puzzle Pieces, Individual Car Parts, The Building Materials (stones, mortar, beams) . . . We, each, individually are like those individual parts of a Puzzles (puzzle pieces), or individual car components, or individual building material ... that when put together correctly make a → complete Puzzle Picture, a Complete Functional Car, or a Complete Building. In our Case **GOD Puts US TOGETHER**



## 3. How does this Apply to us?

- a. We are Saved, Reconciled, Brought Near to God as Worshippers and Citizen of God's Kingdom (His Commonwealth) (Eph. 2:1-13)
- b. We No longer need to be kept separated because of our Ethnic Backgrounds Jesus Himself, by His shed Blood, Crucifixion, Death, Burial and Resurrection is our PEACE ... our Peace between us and God and between each other, regardless of our earthly genetic backgrounds. He broke down the walls and barriers.  
This is ONLY found in Christ, not in any Governmental Program or anything else.  
True, Lasting Peace among humans is ONLY found in Christ.  
(Special NOTE: we are NOT being reconciled to non-Christians)
- c. Worship is LIVING, ORGANIC, and is at its Height when we worship God, together, when we Gather together, or assemble ourselves for that purpose.  
We EXPERIENCE GOD (or at least we should) in our innermost being (heart/soul)  
When we gather together or assemble ourselves  
(☞ that is the basic definition of "church" or "ekklesia")  
we BECOME the Dwelling Place of God, the Spirit. (Matt. 18:20 – 2 or 3 or more...)  
in Christ ... we all are, collectively (the whole Body of Christ) IS a Living Temple
- d. If we focus on Worshipping, Praising, Thanking, and Praying to God in our personal daily life, in our small group gatherings, and in our public Worship Celebrations, HE is the One Who Builds us up (Edifies us) and FITS us together for His Glorious Use

(together). It is always in relationship with others within our local church family. Each of you are, individually, LIKE a Puzzle Piece, and the other folks in our local church family are the Other Puzzle Pieces. When God fits us together ... it is a HOLY and Beautiful Picture of His Glory for His Glory (another example ☞ car parts ... that are put together to become a functioning car – useful, functioning, travelling, etc.).

Once, my focus is off me and onto Him, He does His miraculous work. WORSHIP is the key that unlocks His Growth and Transformation in our lives, TOGETHER.

The focus of my life should not be on ME, but on Growing in Christ to Glorify Christ so that I can be used of God to Build-up others in my local church family. I grow, so that my fellow “living building blocks” in Christ’s Temple can grow, as well. WE GROW TOGETHER.



# The HOLY, Spiritual, LIVING TEMPLE of CHRIST

## 3. How Does this Apply to US, today?

- d. When We **FOCUS** on Worshiping God – He **Transforms** us, Edifies Us, Equips Us, **Knits Us TOGETHER → FITS US TOGETHER**

Our, individual **FOCUS** in LIFE **must** be to Please, Love, Obey, and **Worship God** in Christ. We must all God to build us up, individually, **SO THAT** we each, together can be used by GOD to **Build UP EACH OTHER**. The FOCUS is not on ME but on CHRIST → to Serve One Another as **LIVING Building Blocks** in the **LIVING TEMPLE** of CHRIST. When we **Worship God Together, He Does this Miraculous Work. WE GROW TOGETHER!!!**



## 3. How does this Apply to us?

- a. We are Saved, Reconciled, Brought Near to God as Worshippers and Citizen of God's Kingdom (His Commonwealth) (Eph. 2:1-13)
- b. We No longer need to be kept separated because of our Ethnic Backgrounds Jesus Himself, by His shed Blood, Crucifixion, Death, Burial and Resurrection is our PEACE ... our Peace between us and God and between each other, regardless of our earthly genetic backgrounds. He broke down the walls and barriers. This is ONLY found in Christ, not in any Governmental Program or anything else. True, Lasting Peace among humans is ONLY found in Christ.  
(Special NOTE: we are NOT being reconciled to non-Christians)
- c. Worship is LIVING, ORGANIC, and is at its Height when we worship God, together, when we Gather together, or assemble ourselves for that purpose. We EXPERIENCE GOD (or at least we should) in our innermost being (heart/soul) When we gather together or assemble ourselves  
(☞ that is the basic definition of "church" or "ekklesia")  
we BECOME the Dwelling Place of God, the Spirit. (Matt. 18:20 – 2 or 3 or more...) in Christ ... we all are, collectively (the whole Body of Christ) IS a Living Temple
- d. If we focus on Worshipping, Praising, Thanking, and Praying to God in our personal daily life, in our small group gatherings, and in our public Worship Celebrations, HE is the One Who Builds us up (Edifies us) and FITS us together for His Glorious Use



(together). It is always in relationship with others within our local church family. Each of you are, individually, LIKE a Puzzle Piece, and the other folks in our local church family are the Other Puzzle Pieces. When God fits us together ... it is a HOLY and Beautiful Picture of His Glory for His Glory (another example ☞ car parts ... that are put together to become a functioning car – useful, functioning, travelling, etc.).

Once, my focus is off me and onto Him, He does His miraculous work. WORSHIP is the key that unlocks His Growth and Transformation in our lives, TOGETHER.

The focus of my life should not be on ME, but on Growing in Christ to Glorify Christ so that I can be used of God to Build-up others in my local church family. I grow, so that my fellow “living building blocks” in Christ’s Temple can grow, as well. WE GROW TOGETHER.



**See y'all Next Time we Gather...**  
**@ LIFE Group and/or Here Next Week**



SIMPLY BIBLICAL | FAMILY INTEGRATED