

**The Consummation of *Koinonia*:**  
**The Church as the Temple of the Holy Spirit**  
**Ephesians 2:11-22**  
**February 14, 2010**

*Questions for Study & Reflection*

1. Why do you think nearly all the religions of the world build temples to their “gods”? What are the spiritual and earthly purposes of a temple?
2. Why did God insist that Moses build the tabernacle exactly according the pattern he was shown on the mountain (see Ex 25:40 & Heb 8:5)?
3. Can you name and describe the three temples in Israelite history? (If not, ask around or google it!) To which temple does the famous “west wall” or “wailing wall” belong?
4. Though the tabernacle and the three temples of the Jews differed in several details, what major thing did they all share in common? Why does this matter (see 1 Kings 8:27-29)?
5. Why is Jesus’ claim in John 2:19ff so revolutionary? How does it set him apart from every other religious leader in the world? Is Jesus speaking in metaphorical terms here (see Col 1:19)?
6. Although there are several important texts that hint at or implicitly teach that Jesus’ followers are the temple of the Holy Spirit (see John 14:26, 15:26, 16:7 & Acts 2), there are only four texts that explicitly use this language. Read 1 Cor 3:16-17, 1 Cor 6:18-20, 2 Cor 6:16 and Eph 2:19-22:
  - a. What does Paul mean when he calls those who believe in Jesus the “temple” of God or of the Spirit? What particular Greek word does he use and what does this imply?
  - b. What are the implications of the fact that all of the “you’s” in this text are plural in the Greek?
7. How do the metaphors of the Church as the body of Christ, the Bride of Christ, and the temple of the Holy Spirit relate to one another? What does this imply for how we ought to think about the church? What does this imply for how we ought to live in the church?