

1. God's Spirit Dwells Among You

a. You are God's Temple

- i. literally, the "inner sanctuary" (*naos*) as opposed to the Temple grounds (*hieron*)
 1. Thus, the Church is the eschatological dwelling of God, whereby He had promised to "live with them forever" (Ezek 3:9) and out of which the Living Water flowed out and restored Creation (Ezek 47:1-12)
- ii. The Spirit's presence is the life of the people, bringing the life of Christ (John1) and the light of God's revelation as the only necessary and adequate means of growth, wisdom, redemption, sanctification, etc.
 1. Thus, they don't need the wisdom of the world, for they are indwelt, together as a church, by the Spirit of God Himself
 2. "Do you remember to whom you belong?!"

b. You are holy

- i. You are distinctly different!
 1. This is not as individuals (although that is a truth taught later), but rather as a community
 2. You are a holy community in the midst of an unholy community (Corinth/world)
- ii. Therefore, you should live like it: like the one who indwells you and for whom you belong
 1. There is a high calling to holiness *because you are holy* and because the Spirit of holiness indwells you
 2. Our church should be a distinctly different kind of community within the community of Eugene/Oregon/NW/US/World
- iii. Why should we attempt to look like the world? Appeal to the world? Set up churches that imitate and reflect the world, if we are indwelt by the HS?
 1. We shouldn't! We are holy! Different! Distinct and set apart for the purposes of God, the pleasure of God, the glory of God, in a special relationship to God through Christ Jesus.
 2. The Spirit of God is the reason and the source of our communal holiness
- iv. We have been set apart by God, indwelt with the Spirit of God, *for the purposes of God*
 1. We are not to take ownership of that which is His!
 2. We are not to operate as if we were the Master of the House, but we are the House whose existence is to bring glory to Him through obedience to His purpose and will.
 3. We ARE sacred by God's grace and indwelling AND we are INTENDED BY GOD to be a distinctly different (godly) city within a city
 - a. If God's Spirit indwells us for holiness, we should trust Him to produce the power and purpose for our holiness, not the wisdom of men
 - b. It is not successful strategy, but the Spirit; it is not humanistic psychology, but the Spirit; it is not 'big events', but the Spirit

2. Don't Fall for the Corruption of Worldly Wisdom

a. Don't deceive yourselves

- i. Those who entrust the building and care of God's sacred people to the wisdom and methodology and strength of the world's system are self-deceived

b. The world's wisdom "corrupts" God's Temple and God takes it very seriously!

- i. So seriously, that if a teacher/preacher doesn't turn from building the people on a way other than Christ Jesus, God views it as an active rebellion and intent to destroy His house!
 - ii. He will defend His home, His people, His beloved with qualitatively severe destruction of the enemy of his home
 - iii. Those who want to build and take their divisive stand on men's wisdom will find that are taking apart the Temple of God
 - 1. This would have shocked Jews and Gentiles to speak of such profane and sacrilegious treatment of a Temple
 - 2. Such is the profane foolishness of building on the "successful growth principles" of the world and not upon the Word of Christ crucified and the Spirit of God occupied in His people
- c. So seriously that when we deviate from God's revealed will for how we are to live, it is seen as cancerous within the Church (1 Cor 5:11-13)
 - i. Therefore, distinctive sexual purity is necessary in the Church! (1 Cor 5-6)
 - ii. Therefore, distinctive use and view of wealth is necessary in the Church (1 Cor 5)
 - iii. Therefore, distinctive relationships of authority and submission are necessary in the Church (1 Cor 7)
 - iv. Therefore, distinctive relational love is necessary in the Church (1 Cor 8)
 - v. Therefore, distinctive hope is necessary in the Church (1 Cor 15)
 - vi. All these distinctives proclaim the glory of the Spirit amongst us who proclaims the glory of God through Christ Jesus
- d. Wisdom in this age is folly with God
 - i. Become a fool in this age
 - 1. this is God's wisdom
 - 2. one must humble himself and entrust all things to God's revelation
 - ii. God will judge wisdom and foolishness
 - 1. He knows the limits of man's wisdom
 - 2. He catches them (judges)
 - a. Though one can deceive oneself and other men, one cannot deceive God
 - b. He knows the hearts of men and the foolishness thereof
 - iii. So don't boast in the applause of men, for you are the Temple of God, not of Man

3. Don't Boast in Men, For You Have All Things

- a. All things belong to you
 - i. They are for your good
 - 1. They are working for your glory
 - 2. They are not reliant upon the stratagems or abilities of men
 - ii. Eight Things:
 - 1. Paul – your fatherly founder
 - a. The one who suffered for you and resiliently proclaimed the gospel to you
 - b. The most prominent preacher of the gospel to the Gentiles
 - c. You don't belong to him; he belongs to you
 - i. He is working for you
 - ii. Every labor, every stripe, every word, is serving your good
 - 2. Apollos – your brilliant teacher
 - a. All his theological brilliance and intellectual might is working for you
 - b. All his Alexandrian rhetoric and strength in the OT Scripture is turned by God for your good

- c. You don't need to impress him, to be recognized by him, to be seen by others as attached to him, for he belongs to you
 - d. Whether you are in the "inner circle" of the greatest Christian minds or whether they have never heard of you, they are yours
- 3. Cephas – your historical pillar
 - a. The original disciple who touched Jesus, saw his face, who smelled his sweat; Peter is yours
 - b. The "chief" one is yours
 - c. Everything that Peter said or did or worked or labored for is being woven together by God's perfect skill to make your life beautiful and complete.
 - d. You are not Peter's; Peter is yours.
- 4. The World – all created things, even fallen
 - a. This whole God-created, God-ruled, natural, fallen, broken, painful, beautiful, scarred, horrible, hopeful world is yours, not in part, but in whole.
 - b. You are not victims of the world; it is working for your glory, for it belongs to you. You own it – all things working for your glory
- 5. Life – all moments
 - a. Every breath, every moment, every sight, every sound, everything is yours.
 - b. Every beat of your heart, every love of your life, every failure, every struggle, every memory is working for you, not you for it.
 - c. Every emotion, every fear, every prayer, every tear, every sin, every gift. Every conversation, every relationship, all of it – all your life- is yours. You don't belong to it. It belongs to you and is working your good. Life serves you...always.
- 6. Death – your cursed enemy made your blessed slave
 - a. Where is its sting?! It's embedded in the Cross of Christ.
 - b. Where is its victory?! It's swallowed up by an empty tomb outside of Jerusalem's gates.
 - c. Death is your servant, your footman, your treasure map. You don't serve death. Death serves you.
 - d. Death is your Lookout: While you live death reveals the reality of your redemption, that severe reminder of what is broken so that you glory in Christ's resurrection and promise of renewal.
 - e. Death is your Tutor: It serves your purpose to remind you of the severity and certainty of judgment that you may not waste away in texts and typing without laboring hard for the conversion of those condemned to die.
 - f. Death is your Medi-Evac: It is Death which pilots the boat to bring you home to Jesus. He is your chauffer for your glory.
 - g. Death belongs to you, to serve you, to bring about your greatest good.
- 7. Present – all things are yours now
 - a. You do not merely gain all things in the future. They are working for you now.
 - b. Every moment of today is yours. Every event, both good and evil, are the master strokes of the Master Artist upon the canvas of your life producing the Opus of your glory and good.
 - c. All these present moments are yours, to serve your glory and your good: every tearful night, every joyful celebration, every courageous

victory, every fearful loss, every grief, every leap, every waking moment, every sleeping moment – they are yours.

- d. You are not the slave of today, of time, or of change. They are yours. They serve you. They are God's servants to bring you to glory and to make you glorious. They are yours.
8. Future – all eternity is yours!
 - a. Nothing will happen to you tomorrow that is not yours. No pain that will not be to your advantage and bring you further up and further in. No joy that will not produce in you the song of increasing glory.
 - b. You do not belong to the tomorrow. Tomorrow belongs to you.
 - c. You will shine like the sun in the Kingdom of your Father. You will be kings and priests to your God. You will judge angels in a resurrected incorruptible body and mind.
 - d. You will be a pillar in God's Temple and walk with Christ Jesus. You will sit on His throne and see His smile.
 - e. You will never sin again, growing and growing in increasing splendor and appreciation in the fullness of eternal joy. You will be the fullness of Him who fills all in all.
 - f. The future belongs to you.
- b. For you belong to Christ
 - i. And all things belong to Him
 - ii. You are united to Him like a bride to a groom, like a body to a head, like fruit to a vine, like stones to a Temple.
 - iii. What is His is yours, for He has united Himself to you by grace in the fullness of divine love and joy. All things are yours because the King is your Husband and your Husband is the Maker and your Maker owns it all and has covenanted with you.
- c. Christ belongs to God
 - i. Christ is God's
 1. He is God's Son; He is God's Word; He is God's image; He is God's beloved; He is God's radiance; He is God's essence; He is God's heir
 2. All that the Father is or can be or can do for Himself, He does for the Son.
 - ii. Who is working all of history out for His glory
 1. He is glorified by glorifying His Son
 2. His Son is glorified in uniting Himself to His Bride
 3. You are His Bride
 - iii. Because you are Christ's, all that the Father can do for a creature, He is and He does for you through His Spirit because you belong to His Son.
- d. So don't boast in men, boast in God who has united you to His Son by His Spirit
 - i. You are God's building, His Temple in whom His Spirit dwells.
 1. He made you, so don't boast in men.
 2. He surrounds you, so don't boast in men.
 3. He dwells among you, so don't boast in men.
 - ii. You belong to God and He is committed and unstoppable to present before Himself holy and blameless and beyond reproach, fit for eternity as the Holy Bride of His Son
 1. *Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. (Eph 5:25-27 ESV)*

Conclusion:

We are made holy and indwelt by the Holy Spirit *because Jesus handed Himself over on our behalf*. It is by His blood that we are made His people. “to those elect exiles...according to the foreknowledge of God, in the sanctification of the Spirit into obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ...” (1 Pet 1:1-2)

It is because God swore to make a people for Himself at the expense of His own blood that you and I are made a holy people, belonging to God, having been gathered into a distinctly different community for sacred purpose, united to Christ Jesus by faith, sealed and secured by His blood and His Spirit for obedience to His Word. God did this.

God brought about your repentance and gave you faith. God uncovered your eyes and displayed to your heart the excellencies of His Son. God called you out of darkness and into His marvelous light. God did this.

God made you His people, to dwell among you forever, to pour out His covenant blessings for eternity, to reveal His glorious beauty in progression of infinite moments. You are God's. He is yours. Don't boast in a man when you are God's workmanship, and that is what you are, created in Christ Jesus for good works. (Eph 2:10) You are His glorious trophy of grace displayed for all the heavens to see and praise Him. You are your Beloved's and He is yours.

All things are yours. They are working for you for you belong to Christ Jesus by faith. Nothing is your master but God; all things are your servants for your good and for your glory on that day. God will see to it that this “light momentary affliction is accomplishing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.” (2Co 4:17)