

# **“Who Are We?”**

## **Small Group Study**

### **Study 2 – “We are the Temple of Christ”**

#### **1. Getting Started.**

We all have pictures of ourselves, images that we live by, that shape our actions. Some of these images come about because of our history, our family background. What are some things you do – or do not do - because of your family background? Discuss your answers in your group.

(e.g. did your mother or father say “we do not do .....

” – meaning that our family does not do that. It could be something to do with the sort of cars you drove - “We are Holden men – we do not drive Fords” - or it could be concerning moral behaviour).

#### **2. The “Temple” Image.**

Another of the key images that the Apostle Paul has in his mind when he thinks about Christians is that we are “The Temple of the Holy Spirit”. This image has a great ‘History’ in the Old Testament.

a) **Read 1 Kings 9:1-8** and as you do, try and work out what significance the Temple has here. In other words, what might the image of the Temple have symbolized from here on, to God’s people? ( see v3) What was important for Solomon and his sons to do? (v4-9) Why? Discuss.

- b) **Read 2 Corinthians 6:14 - 7:1.** It is not clear exactly what Paul means by “yoked together” (some think it refers to marriage, others to business deals etc). What is the general point of Paul’s warning? (see 7:1)
- c) Why do you think Paul reminds the Corinthian Christians about the “Temple of God” image in 2 Cor 6:16-18? What are the significant elements of this image? What does it represent?
- d) Look briefly at Jeremiah 32:36 - 41? How does what is promised here also shape Paul’s instructions to the Corinthians? ( v38 is quoted by Paul)
- e) If the Christians in Corinth begin to think of themselves as God’s Temple, how might they behave differently?
- f) What does the ‘Temple’ image emphasise about the way God wants his church to behave?

3. **Getting Practical.**

At St Faith's, we meet in church meetings. Many of us also meet in Small Groups.

a) What might God want us to be concerned about in the lives of our Christian friends, since together we are "God's Temple"? Discuss the reasons for your answer.

b) What might we do differently, as a result of thinking this way?

c) What have you been personally challenged to change as a result of this study?

d) Pray about how to do this.

4. **If you have time.....**

- a) In the Old Testament, Temple and worship are key concepts that are related. The Old Testament is full of promises that a day would come when God would see to it that true worship was offered to Him.

Look at Malachi 1:11. Where will God be glorified? By whom?  
Can you see how Paul might be working deliberately to fulfill this?

- b) Trace how this image works in some of the other parts of the New Testament (see John 2:20-21; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6v19).

Consider what in each case is emphasized by the use of the 'Temple' image. What does each passage say about how God thinks about us? How does that differ from how we usually think about ourselves or other Christians? Discuss.