

Remnant Life Church  
September 25, 2022  
**Our Church at 10 Years**

Part 5

The Nature of The Church: The Temple of the Holy Spirit  
I Cor 3:16-17

We have come to the end of this series on the nature of the church leading up to our 10-year anniversary celebration service next Sunday

- I wanted us to examine this because of the Apostle Paul's identification of the church
- He was the first great church planter with 9 of his 13 NT writings being letters to those first churches
- But it was also the same structure on which Remnant Life Church was formed 10 years ago

The first nature of the church, through the lens of the Apostle Paul, is that we are the **People of God**

The second nature of the church is that we are the **Body of Christ**

- This means that the church is the extension of God's activity in the lives of men
- It is the term used to describe both the world-wide church and the local presence including us here at Remnant Life
- And it is the image of the body of Christ which also emphasizes the connectivity of the church

The body of Christ is made up of two parts

- First, Christ is the head of the church body
- And second, within that body, we the believers, are the individual members or parts
  - And since we are all the parts of the body, we must recognize that there is an interconnectedness between all those who make up the church
    - The differences we each bring are a positive, necessary element of the church
    - We all have a purpose, a function, and a place in this church
    - And within that...

1. Each believer encourages and builds up the other
2. The body of Christ is to be characterized by genuine fellowship
3. The church is to be a unified body

Paul knew what he was talking about when he emphasized these things to the new churches that were gathering

- The people in the church of Corinth were already debating one another
- We read in **I Cor 1:10-17** that they were even divided on which spiritual leader they should follow

- Paul, Apollos, Cephus (the Aramaic translation of Peter, the name Jesus gave to Simon), Jesus –
- You may not realize it but that is the birth of church cliques...present at the very beginning
- Paul warned against them
  - Why?
  - Because they brought disunity and divided the people
  - And it was the earliest attempts of satan to weaken the church
- The church must become unified to stand united against the influence of the world and the schemes of the devil
- The church is the *People of God*, it is the *Body of Christ*, and this morning we look at how the church is the *Temple of the Holy Spirit*

**READ – I Cor 3:16-17** - *Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.*

How do we come to recognize or understand that the church is the temple of the Holy Spirit?

- First, it was the Holy Spirit who brought the church into being at Pentecost
  - There was a visible presence of what happened
  - The disciples were all baptized in the Holy Spirit as evidenced by the speaking in many tongues
  - Then there were 3000 who were converted and became the foundation of that first church
  - Not only there, but in every location represented by the 15 different languages listed that were being heard (**Acts 2:9-11**)
  - It is this same spirit at work in the church today
  - **I Cor 12:13** - *For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.*
- Second, because it was the Holy Spirit who gave birth to the church, the church is then indwelt by the presence of the Holy Spirit, both individually and collectively
  - This is what we read a few minutes ago regarding the temple of God
  - Individually, because we carry the Holy Spirit wherever we go, our bodies are also His temple, or dwelling place.
    - Paul writes in **I Cor 6:19** – *Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?*
    - He also writes of believers as being *a holy temple of God...a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit* in **Eph 2:21-22**
  - Peter then says much the same thing within the context of the image of Christ as *the cornerstone of the temple* where he calls believers *a spiritual house* – **I Peter 2:5**

And because the Holy Spirit is dwelling within the church, He brings or imparts life to it

- The qualities of that life, which we are to extend and demonstrate freely, are, in fact, the very nature of God
- What are those qualities, those fruits of the Spirit?
  - Turn to **Galatians 5:22-25**
  - *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.*
  - When these qualities are seen in a church it is indicative of the presence of the Holy Spirit

(Additional Notes) It is also the presence of the Holy Spirit that brings power to the church

- Jesus said as much
  - **Acts 1:8** – *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*
- John tells us that Jesus said, because of the coming of the Holy Spirit promised that the disciples would do even greater things than He did
  - **John 14:12** - *Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.*
  - And this is also why Jesus said to them in **John 16:7** - *But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.*
- And that promise was soon fulfilled
  - 3000 responded to Peter's preaching
  - They were adding to their number every day those being saved
  - The disciples were preaching in boldness and power
- Why is this special?
  - Remember who it is we are talking about
  - Not scholars, men trained in the law or speaking in public
  - Fishermen, a tax collector, tradesmen, and a zealot or revolutionary

Finally, it is the presence of the Holy Spirit that creates the atmosphere of warmth and welcoming in a church

- This is of paramount importance here at RLC
- It is why I give special instructions in the pre-service prayer group
  - Keep an eye out for anyone you don't know and jump 'em!
- Not because we have to, but because that is how the love of God is shown, because of Jesus Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit

We are the people of God - We are the body of Christ - And we are the temple of the Holy Spirit