**1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?**

Knowing Jesus isn’t just about where we go after life, it’s about how we live during life. It’s not just about seeing Jesus when we go, but showing Jesus while we’re here! We are the very Temple of the Living God, the hands and feet of Christ, the container of the Holy Spirit walking on earth today. If that doesn’t get your blood pumping every single morning, there may be something wrong with your pumper.

Today starts a series on the individual as the Temple of God. Too often, we forget that we are the Temple of God here on earth! Christ dwells within us. Sometimes we forget this point. Like the woman at the well, we get distracted. God dwells within you, He dwells within me. 2 Corinthians 13:5 says *Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.* Time and time again, the Bible makes it clear that Christ lives within us. The Holy Spirit indwells us, when we believe. That should cause us all to rise in the morning and glorify God, shouting Hallelujah and looking to see how we might impact the Kingdom today.

Notice how the verse starts – *Do you not know?* In the King James, it says Know ye not? The word know has the idea of see – Do you not see? Our church building is only a representation of the church – a symbol of those who trust Jesus that gather within these walls. Paul is saying – we must choose to see that we are God’s loved ones, that He looks upon us and sees Christ within us. Romans 8:9 says *But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.* When we accept Jesus, we are no longer in the flesh. But we must choose to believe and live this truth.

The verse continues *that you are the temple of God.* Let’s stop there just a minute and drink that one in. That one my friends is cool water on a hot day. You are the temple of God. This church is the temple of God… why? Because we have individuals in whom God is dwelling sitting here. The you here is plural… but there is no group of “you”s without there being individual you. There is not group of believers gathering without there being individual believers who gather. There can be no CHURCH without there first being “church”. Cool water, sweet lemonade.

So, since we now know, we now see that we are the temple of God, the very dwelling place of Christ, the home of the Holy Spirit here on earth, we also can clearly see that our brother next to us, our sister across the aisle is also the temple of God, the very dwelling place of Christ, the Home of the Holy Spirit here on earth. When we look upon him or her, we see God and we know that if we don’t love our brother and sister, we don’t really love God and we are not living in the Light of Christ. 1 John 3:14 says *We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.*

The verse finishes *and that the Spirit of God dwells in you.* John 14:17-18 says *the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.* Our verse started with Know Ye Not – Do you not see? Here, we learn that the world cannot receive the Holy Spirit because they neither see nor know Him. But we know Him – how? He chose us and dwells in us! We are not orphans, we are not alone, God is with us and in us. That is encouraging my friends. When we believe on Jesus, we receive the Holy Spirit which God sends. Our verse says the Spirit of God – this is the exact same word used in Acts 2:4 on the day of Pentecost when God sent the Holy Spirit on His followers.

As Christ was the physical embodiment of God on earth, the very Word of God become flesh and dwelling among us, so we are the very physical embodiment of Christ in this world, representing Him, until He returns or until we go to Him. But we must receive God and know Him, we must sit with Him and learn of Him. Our surface is not where God seeks to dwell, but in the deepest parts of our soul. God doesn’t just want to see the pictures from your journey… He wants to walk with you as you travel.

As the embodiment of Jesus, our very being must speak the love of Jesus into this world. When people brush against us, hear us speak, feel our love, they should walk away with a sense that they have been to the temple and they met Christ there. Are we perfect? No. But I believe we are progressing.

You are the temple of God. The Holy Spirit dwells in you. This week – let’s think about how we’re viewing God’s temple in ourselves, in others. Romans 14:17 says *for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.* If Jesus came to your temple today, what would He find? What would He need to drive out? What tables might He overturn? Let’s think on that this week and prepare our hearts for Christ’s cleansing. Do you not know … yes Savior, we do know and we do see.