

Loving the Building (the Church is a Temple!)

1 Cor. 3.4-17

Focus: to warn the church against pridefully dividing the church, which is God's temple.

RESOURCES:

Here is a link to a helpful article on the church as a temple:

<https://bible.org/seriespage/10-warning-don-t-touch-temple-1-corinthians-316-17>

2016 Annual Priority:

To establish a greater devotion to believing and being shaped by the three great loves embedded in our mission statement's goal of becoming a mature and ministering worshiper of God; love for God, love for the church, and love of neighbor.

Discussion:

- Have people share about temples they have visited from other faiths. What sticks out in their minds? What was the purpose of those temples?

Read 1 Cor. 3.1-4. What seemed to be the problem in the church in Corinth that Paul was correcting with this teaching? How do these same issues (prideful divisions, exalting men above Christ) show up in our churches today?

- Read 3.5-9. How does Paul correct them with this teaching? How can we apply this to our leaders today?

- Read 3.10-15. What kinds of things would fall into the categories of perishable/imperishable materials for building the church? What can help you guard against serving the church in ways that will one day result in loss, not reward?

- Read 3.16-17. What does it mean that the church is a temple where the Spirit dwells? What is the significance of this metaphor?

- What do you think it means to "destroy the temple"? What might that look like?

- How should thinking about North Wake as the temple of the Spirit affect the way you engage and serve the church?

