

FURTHER STUDY GUIDE

YOU ARE THE TEMPLE: LIVING WITH GLORY WITHIN

SECTION 1: SET APART FROM THE WORLD

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 1 Peter 1:18-19

In ancient times, temples were built as places for a deity to live. In Corinth, people were used to worshipping many idols, and sexual immorality was common. The Apostle Paul challenges this way of thinking. He explains that for Christians, God's presence is not found in buildings, but in each believer's body through the Holy Spirit. Paul also reminds the Corinthians that their lives are not their own anymore; they were bought at a price, which was Jesus's sacrifice. So, being "set apart" is not about strict rules or isolation, but about responding with love to what God has done and choosing to honor Him with our bodies.

OPENING QUESTION

- If you could instantly become an expert caretaker or curator of any famous historic building or museum in the world, which one would you choose and why?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **The Cost of Ownership:** What changes in your daily choices when you truly embrace the reality that your life and body are not your own property, but were "bought at a price"?

2. **Cultural Counter-Current:** In what specific ways does our modern culture encourage us to treat our bodies as our own to do with as we please? How can we practically resist that mindset?

3. **Honoring the Guest:** If a highly honored guest stays at your home, you change how you act and maintain the house. How should the constant presence of the Holy Spirit inside you change how you treat your physical body?

SECTION 2: SENT OUT INTO THE WORLD

Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; John 17:13-19

Paul uses a farming example to talk about being unequally yoked. A yoke connects two animals to pull a load, but if they don't match, they struggle against each other. Paul warns believers not to form close partnerships that could pull them away from Christ, but he is not saying they should avoid the world completely. Instead, being a living temple means bringing God's presence wherever we go. Believers are called to live differently among others so people can see God living and working through them, and be drawn to join His family.

SHARING

- Share a funny or frustrating time when you had to work on a team project or a task where you and your partner were completely out of sync or had totally different goals.

4. Navigating Connections: How do we balance Paul's command not to be "unequally yoked" with Jesus's command to love our neighbors and go into all the world? Where is the line between *engaging* the culture and *compromising* with it?

5. The Living Invitation: Verse 16 says, *"I will live with them and walk among them."*

How does your everyday life serve as a visible invitation for others to know God?

6. The Promise of Intimacy: In verses 17-18, God promises to welcome us and be a Father to us when we come out and are separate. Why is a deep, intimate relationship with God worth the social cost or awkwardness of being different from the world?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Take a moment to look around the room you are in right now. Whether you are at a desk, on a couch, or on your phone during a busy commute, stop and consider this staggering reality: God is entirely present right where you are because He is entirely present inside you.

In ancient times, people traveled for miles, scaled mountains, and brought expensive sacrifices just to get near a physical temple where God's presence rested. Today, because of Jesus' blood, the architecture has changed. The veil was torn, the stone walls were left behind, and God chose *you* to be His dwelling place. You are a walking, breathing sanctuary. This truth brings both comfort and radical responsibility.

1. **You are valued:** You were bought at a price. Your worth is permanently defined by the immense cost Jesus paid on the cross to rescue you.

2. **You are set apart:** Because you belong to Him, your body, your thoughts, your time, and your attention are holy spaces.

But God didn't design His temple to stay locked away behind closed doors. He sets you apart so that He can **send you out**. Every time you walk into a workplace, a school, a grocery store, or a difficult family gathering, you are bringing the presence of the living God into that room. You are the intersection where heaven meets earth for the people around you.

Heart Check

- **What am I allowing into the temple?** Consider what you have been feeding your mind, your eyes, and your body lately. Does it honor the Holy Spirit who lives within you?
- **Am I hiding or shining?** Am I trying so hard to fit into the world that people can't tell God lives in me, or am I letting His distinct love and holiness shine through my actions?

QUESTIONS | REFLECTIONS | OBSERVATIONS
