

Building the Temple of the Lord

I Cor. 3:9

–One of the most foundational principles of Christianity is that the Temple of the Lord is the corporate Body of Christ.

–This is also one of the least understood and pursued.

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Definitions:

What is ***Rest***?

Two Definitions:

1. Our rest – rest of the body, soul or spirit that can involve reducing activity and stress for a time in order to recover strength, focus and vision.
2. God's rest – a place where God's desires are fully realized and resistance to His Will is subdued and removed. This is a place of communion between God and His people.

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•God *rested* in the Body of the Lord Jesus because there was no resistance to His Father in Him. (Hebrews 10:5-10)

–This will happen again wherever a covenant fellowship of believers comes into a place of submission to the Father through His grace.

•Where God rests, His glory manifests publicly.

–So what is the definition of “glory”?

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Two Definitions of "Glory"

1. Approval and praise for accomplishing something excellent.
 - o Examples: the accolades received by an Olympic athlete or the praise we give to God when He does something amazing.
2. The substance of God.
 - o Similar to His holiness, God's glory is unique to Him and cannot be found outside of Him. Psalm 24:7-10 refers to God by the title "King of Glory" five times, as if *glory* were a country that He ruled.

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The Substance of God

- o Where God's **substance** glory is, (and to the decree that it is manifested) whatever is not approved by Him is immediately destroyed.
 - o *Examples: Aaron's sons destroyed; the people of Beth Shemesh opening the lid of the Ark of the Covenant, Ananius and Saphira, etc.*
- o ***There is a warning here. If we want to go near to God and His glory, or if we want His glory to manifest in our midst, we must sanctify ourselves by letting the Holy Spirit reveal all un-submitted places in us. EVEN IN THE NEW COVENANT.***

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What Does God Want?

1. The Father wants a family that will perfectly manifest His will on the earth as it is in heaven. (In other words, a Bride for His Son.)
2. The Son wants a corporate Bride that is in perfect agreement with Him on earth as it is in heaven.
3. The Holy Spirit wants a temple of living stones to permeate that perfectly manifests the glory of the Father and the Son.

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- The Greatest Commandments, Great Commission and John 14-17 are the “how” of God’s desires.**
- At the center of all of these definitions is a process of God’s people being systematically transformed into a covenant body that has been replaced by Christ personally and corporately.
- Petrified wood:** A tree is systematically replaced by minerals on a nearly cellular level bit by bit until it is an entirely new substance. It still looks similar to a tree, but it has been replaced with an “incorruptible” substance. (I Cor. 15)

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- Eph. 4:11-16**
 –At the center of all of this is the supremacy of Christ

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- Biblical Mad Libs:**
- The more we obey and submit to Him individually, the more we are sanctified and transformed into His likeness. This gives Him **glory** (_____). As we come into covenant and continue this process corporately, we begin to create a **resting place**. (_____.)
- Where the Body of Christ enters God’s rest, this is called the Fullness of God. What God experiences is called Rest because His **glory** (_____) can manifest without destroying those He loves. (He can be Himself.) What the Body of Christ experiences is called Fullness, because Christ is fully manifest in our midst. No lack, sickness, demonic oppression, or death can stay where Christ is fully manifest because God’s **glory** (_____) **rests in Christ** (_____), and Christ is in our midst. God’s Rest and the Fullness of Christ are the same “place”.

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•Biblical Mad Libs:

•What the Body of Christ experiences is called Fullness, because Christ is fully manifest in our midst. No lack, sickness, demonic oppression, or death can stay where Christ is fully manifest because God's **glory** (_____) **rests in Christ** (_____), and Christ is in our midst.

•God's Rest and the Fullness of Christ are the same "place".

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The Temple of the Lord is Not a Location, a Structure or an Individual (Other Than Christ)

- Two common heresies arise from attempting to answer the question "What Does God Want?":
 1. God wants me to do something grand for Him.
 2. All God wants is for me to grow more Christlike individually.

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- Even David was tempted by this "structure" error when he asked to build the temple, but the Lord corrected Him.
- *David's heart was building a much better temple for God than his hands ever could.*

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•Hebrews 4:11-16

- To enter His rest, we need the word of God to pierce us, and we need to grow in relationship with the Compassionate High Priest.
- And if we want to experience His glory, we must surrender to the process even when His Word confronts us on a "cellular level".
- Yet we are not condemned. Our High Priest is after a submissive heart, not a perfect action.
