

# Three New Testament Temples

*Stanley Toussaint*

## I. Introduction.

A. There are seven temples: three past, three present, and one future.

1. Solomon's temple.
2. Zerubbabel's temple.
3. Herod's temple.
4. The future temple. (Ezekiel 40:44)
5. The present temple of the human body.
6. The present temple of the universal church.
7. The present temple of the local church.

B. There are two types of temples—*naos*, which refers to the Holy of Holies, and *hieion*—which refers to the whole temple area.

## II. The body as a temple. (I Corinthians 6)

- A. Immorality grips a person's thoughts, will, and emotions.
- B. Food and the stomach are unnecessary for eternity, but the body is necessary because God will resurrect the body.
- C. The body is not for sexual immorality—it is for God.
- D. There is a flesh union with a prostitute and a spiritual union with Christ—the spiritual union should take precedence, so one should not join with a prostitute.
- E. One is to flee sexual immorality. (Genesis 39)
- F. One's body is intended to be a temple for the Spirit—it belongs to God.
- G. One's body is to show off God.

## III. The temple as a local church. (I Corinthians 3:9 on)

- A. The one who builds for Christ will have works that remain—the one who builds for himself will have nothing remain.
- B. God indwells the local church, and a man who tries to corrupt it will be destroyed by God.

C. One must take care not to build an empire for himself by leading a church.

IV. The temple as the universal church. (Ephesians 2:11-22)

A. The church is built on the Apostles and prophets with Christ being the cornerstone.

B. Gentiles and Jews are brought together in it.

C. Paul emphasizes that all believers are one body—there is great unity because they are in the same building.

D. It is a living building that grows together.

E. We contribute to the growth of the body by swelling as living stones and bringing in new stones through evangelism.

F. Christ is the critical point in all three temples.

**Application questions:**

1. How do the three present temples relate to each other? How are they different?

---

---

2. What reasons are given for fleeing sexual immorality in I Corinthians 6?

---

---

3. Why is it important to know that people of a different theology are part of the same body? Explain.

---

---