



You are the House of God

 **PASSION:** It's true! Together we are the temple of the Holy Spirit! We are the Body of Christ! God is very serious about our collective functioning as members of His body (1 Corinthians 12). God is very serious about the *"proper working of each individual part."* (Ephesians 4:16) The body and the temple are each complex illustrations of believers fulfilling their God-given function for the good of the whole. But here, we focus with God on our personal, unique, powerful, critical contributions as individuals. You (singular) are the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19,20). Let's dig into your personal space and mine.

 **PROBE:** Think about your home, your residence, where you dwell. This is the special place that is most comfortable to you. When you come home, you relax, let your hair down, cook your favorite foods. You decorate your home, repair it, renovate it, and design it with your personal flair. You are content and safe there, no performance, no jumping through hoops. If you are able to look at *"home"* in a positive light, how would you speak about your residence? Be expansive, unhindered, creative as you dream about just how wonderful your home is, or could be... *Now transfer this "home renovation" mindset to the spiritual dimension that you are the house of God, the temple of the Holy Spirit.*

"Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body." (1 Corinthians 6:19,20 NLT)

The word "temple" here refers to the specific inner holy place often called the Holy of Holies. When God says, *"your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit,"* there is history behind those words! God bought you with the highest price ever paid! Do you sometimes wonder about your worth? Well, the worth or value of something is determined by the price the buyer is willing to pay. You are of infinite value to God!

"For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God." (1 Peter 1:18,19 NLT)

God bought a house. You! You are the holy dwelling place of God! He paid an astronomical price for His house. When God moved in, you became the Holy of Holies, the temple of the Holy Spirit, the house of God. God abides in you!

Normally, when an owner sells a house, he has to move out to vacate the premises for the new owner. But in this case, when God bought your house with the precious blood of Jesus, you didn't have to move out! You got to stay! Sounds crazy, but it's worthy of our contemplation. Together with God, you get to engage in His redecoration, renovation, and transformation of His new house. As the Holy Spirit abides in you, His temple, join with Him in designing the most relational, intimate, beautiful, welcoming dwelling place imaginable. This is a wonderful, fresh way to look at "being" a follower of Christ, abiding in Christ and Christ abiding in you.

PRACTICE:



- Ask God how He would like to redecorate your interior. Listen and write down what He says. Have a conversation with Him about His redesign plans. Some of His suggestions may be subtle.
- Allow yourself to dream about the beautiful and inviting home where you and God spend your lives together. Write your dreams. What would be some of His favorite touches? Your favorite touches?
- You are not alone. You are never alone. You are the house (temple) of God! His full and complete presence are constantly with you!
- If you've ever read the booklet, *"My Heart Christ's Home,"* it offers illustrative insight into this truth.
- What is God saying to you about abiding more deeply?
- How will you live differently?