

The Temple of God – Setting the tone

1. 2 Chronicles 7:1-6
 - a. The temple, the place where the glory of the Lord dwells, where heaven and earth meet, and where we go to worship God.
2. John 2:13-21
 - a. Jesus is the true Temple of God, where God resides and where we go to worship Him
3. Ephesians 2:19-22 (see also 1 Cor 3:16-17; 2 Cor 6:16-7:1)
 - a. As a result of our union with Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in us, and as Christ is the true Temple, so also the Church is the true temple.
 - b. Ephesians 2:22 – the “you” is one of those plural “you’s” which speaks of God making his Church into His dwelling place.
 - c. Take a moment and ponder this in your hearts. The temple, the holy place, where God makes his dwelling on the earth, where the glory of God is so overwhelming that the priests can’t do their work... this temple is Jesus’ body – and as members of his body, this temple is us.
 - d. There is nothing sacred or spiritual about a church building, a cathedral, a worship center – we are the sacred and spiritual. This truth should destroy any notion of a sacred and secular divide in your mind and in your life. There is no spiritual and non-spiritual. You’re not to spend some time worshipping and praying and some time working. Everything is to be worship and prayer.
 - e. When you get together with other believers, you’re not just eating dinner or shopping, it’s holy and sacred. Think again about Jesus’ zeal for the purity and the sanctity of the temple John 2 and the implications for us as His temple.

Praying Together

1. Do you ever find that there is resistance to praying together when you’re with other Christians? What forms does this resistance take? Why do you think this happens?
2. Prayer Priorities
 - a. Matt 6:9-13 - This prayer is a community prayer – it’s all we, not me
 - i. God’s Glory - We request that God honor His name and make all creation recognize and revere His holiness (ourselves included)
 - ii. God’s Rule - We request that God exercise His rule in King Jesus and that His will be done on the earth
 - iii. God’s Provision - We request that God supply us with everything we need to do His will and to be satisfied in Him
 - iv. God’s Mercy – We request that God forgive us for our sins and failures to live out His glory in our lives, and that He would grant us the grace to extend forgiveness to those who win against us
 - v. God’s Guidance - We request that God lead us away from temptation, sin, and self-seeking
 - vi. God’s Protection – We request that God protect us from the attacks of the devil and his angels
 - b. Pray this prayer together
3. Fighting for each other with prayer
 - a. Ephesians 6:10-20
 - i. Both praying and being alert and participates in this passage, demonstrating the means by which the armor of God is wielded
 - b. How can we fight for each other with prayer? What kinds of things need to be fought for?
4. Building each other up with prayer

- a. 2 Thessalonians 1:11
- b. Ephesians 3:14-21
- c. How can we build each other up with prayer? How important is this?
- 5. What are some hindrances to prayer?
 - a. Personal Disobedience: Prov 28:9
 - b. Unconfessed Sin: Psa 66:18
 - c. Unforgiving attitudes: Mark 11:25
 - d. Uncaring Actions: Prov 21:13
 - e. Selfishness: James 4:3
 - f. Self-promotion: Matt 6:5-6
 - g. Family Discord: 1 Pet 3:7
 - h. Failure to pray: James 4:2
 - i. Doubt: James 1:5-7
 - j. Community/National Disobedience: Jer. 11:10-11
- 6. Would you be willing to commit to praying together? That is, whenever you come together with other Christians (whether for bible study, or dinner, or shopping) to pray together and intercede for each other for whatever may be going on in their lives, or simply that God strengthen them on their way.

Community

- 1. Doing community together
 - a. What's involved in being a Christian community?
- 2. Fighting for each other in community (in compassion, in correction)
 - a. Matt 25:31-46 – This is often used as a text to encourage general ministry to the poor. While such activity is certainly encouraged in the Bible, this passage speaks of compassion shown to other Christians. “the least of these brothers of mine”
 - b. 2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 8-9, 13-15 – These Macedonians, in a plight of extreme poverty, joyfully gave above and beyond their means to aid the poor in Jerusalem.
 - c. Matt 18:15-20 / Gal 6:1 – Correcting sin is vital to loving your brother and doing community
 - d. What are some other ways we can fight for each other in community?
 - e. How can we fight for others in our life group community? How can we fight for others in our Heritage community? How can we fight for others in the world community?
- 3. Building each other up in community
 - a. Ephesians 4:11-16
 - b. What is the purpose of the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers?
 - c. Who does the work of the ministry?
 - d. How does the body grow? What is your part? What is our life group's part?