

THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD, GOD'S TEMPLE
II COR. 6:14-18

Introduction:

- A. The nation of Israel was God's peculiar people.
 - 1. "A peculiar people." Deut. 14:2.
 - 2. "A peculiar treasure." Ex. 19:5.
 - 3. "A holy nation." Ex. 19:6.
 - 4. "A holy people." Deut. 7:6.
 - 5. "A special people." Deut. 7:6.

 - B. God dwelt in their midst.
 - 1. In the tabernacle.
 - 2. In the temple.

 - C. In all the world there were only two classes or kinds of people.
 - 1. Jews and Gentiles.
 - 2. They were never to mix or mingle.
- [wool and linen] = Their garments had no mixture.
[oxen and ass] = They did not plow mixed teams.
[no idols] = Their religious activities were to be kept pure and holy.
- D. The covenant between God and Israel.
 - 1. Lev. 25:55; 26:1-13, "If ye will....."
 - a. The theme is, "if you will, then I will."
 - b. There are "ifs" in any conditional covenant.
 - 2. Lev. 26:14-46, "But if ye will not...."
 - a. "terror, consumption, burning,"
 - b. "I will break the pride of your power."

 - E. At this time the church is both people and temple.
 - 1. v16, "for ye are the temple of the living God."
 - 2. I Peter 2:5, "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house..."
 - 3. Eph. 2:21, "a building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord, an habitation of God through the Spirit."

- F. The church as such must walk pure and holy, separated from the world.
 - 1. This was the essence of Paul's plea.
 - 2. You, like Israel, are a covenant people.

I. THE COMMAND OF PAUL. V14a

- A. What is a yoke?
 - 1. eterzugountes = yoked with another who is different, "Two must work as one."
- B. What is an unbeliever?
 - 1. apistos = disbelieving, faithless.
 - 2. Anyone or anything not of belief.
- C. What does Paul mean?
 - 1. Do not enter into inconsistent relations with those who reject the faith.

[Things that are forbidden]

II. IMPOSSIBLE RELATIONSHIPS. V14b-16a

- A. fellowship = metache - partnership, things in common.
 - 1. righteousness = diakaiosune - the doing or being of that which is good or right.
 - 2. unrighteousness = anomia = lawlessness, contempt of law.
- B. communion = koinonia = the act of sharing, when what is true of one is true of another, what belongs to one belongs to the other.
 - 1. light = photismos - illumination, shining.
 - 2. darkness = skotos = no light, absence of light.
- C. concord = sumphonesis - symphony, speaking a thing together, agreement, unison.
 - 1. Christ = The Son of God, Righteousness.
 - 2. Belial = Satan, all that is evil.

- D. part = meris - a part, division, a share.
 - 1. believeth = pistos - trusting, the persuasion which one has, the conviction one cherishes.
 - 2. infidel = apistos - without faith, persuasion.

- E. agreement = sugkatathesis = consent, to put down together with, those who have the same opinion to put their ballots in the same urn.
 - 1. "temple of God."
 - 2. "idols," = eidolon - an image of god.

III. THE RIGHTEOUS POSITION OF THE CHURCH. U16b

- A. "for ye are the temple of the living God."
 - 1. When you congregate, God indwells you.

- B. "as God hath said."
 - 1. "I will dwell in them."
 - 2. "and walk in them."
 - 3. "and I will be their God."
 - 4. "and they shall be my people."

IV. GOD'S COMMAND TO HIS PEOPLE. U17a

- A. "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord."
 - 1. separate = aphorizo - to set off by bounds, to limit off apart.

- B. "and touch not the unclean thing."
 - 1. touch = apto - to fasten to, in the middle voice, to touch, to have intercourse.
 - 2. Don't become attached to unclean things, in fact do not investigate them.

V. GOD'S SURE PROMISE TO THE OBEDIENT CHURCH. V17b-18

- A. "and I will receive you."
 - 1. This is not salvation from hell.
 - 2. receive = eisdechomai - to receive into one's self or one's house.

- B. "And will be a Father unto you."
 - 1. I will respond to your obedience as a father responds to an obedient child.

- C. "and ye shall be my sons and daughters."
 - 1. The position of God's people will be that of a family living and working together under the leadership of a wise and godly father.

VI. WHO MAKES THESE PROMISES?

- A. "saith the Lord Almighty."
 - 1. The Almighty One, the True God of all things.