

## **“The Dwelling Place Of God”**

### **Ephesians 2:19-22**

#### **Sermon Series: “Be Rich”**

**Introduction:** None of us wants to be alone, especially in times of difficulty. Thankfully, God has not left His children alone, but He is present in us individually as believers and corporately in the Church. Warren Wiersbe has written, “The people of God are identified by the presence of God.”

**Main Idea: We are united together in the Church as the dwelling place of God.**

John MacArthur writes, “The term ‘a dwelling’ carries the idea of a permanent home. God in the Spirit makes His earthly sanctuary in the church, where He takes up permanent residence as Lord. This would be a vivid perception for people living amid temples in which pagan deities were believed to dwell, as in the temple to Artemis in Ephesus. But the church is no small physical chamber in which an idol is kept; it is the vast spiritual body of the redeemed, wherein resides His Spirit.”

Clinton Arnold writes, “Paul concludes this section about the nature of the church by affirming that God dwells in their midst. The ‘nearness’ to God Paul describes in the central statement of this passage is now expressed in different terms. Paul says that by union with Christ, redeemed people form a corporate body that is the dwelling place of God.

‘Built together’ is parallel with ‘fitted together’ and continues the temple imagery, although in more general terms. Believing Jews and Gentiles are together incorporated into the church and form a home for God. Whereas under the old covenant, God filled the literal temple with his presence, under the new covenant he fills the corporate body of believers with his presence. Thus, under the new

covenant, there is a higher degree of closeness to God that characterizes the daily existence of God’s people.”

#### **I) The Background of the Presence of God Through The Ages:**

- 1. God walked with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:8-11)**
- 2. Christophanies (Exodus 3:1-6)**
- 3. The Tabernacle (Exodus 25:8-9)**
- 4. The Temple (1 Kings 8:1-13)**
- 5. Jesus (John 1:14)**
- 6. Believers individually (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) and the Church corporately**
- 7. With God’s people in heaven (Revelation 21:3)**

#### **II) The Implications of the Presence of God in the Lives of Believers:**

- 1. The presence of God in the Church through the Spirit empowers her to accomplish her mission.**
  - Power to witness (Acts 1:8)**
  - Gifting to serve (1 Corinthians 12)**
  - Guidance to know God’s will (Acts 13:1-4, 16:6-10)**
- 2. We will never face anything in our lives alone without God present with us (Hebrews 13:5).**
- 3. We will never face any challenge in our lives that we are not empowered to overcome (1 John 4:4).**
- 4. Everything in life is in God’s presence and for His glory so there is no distinction between religious and non-religious (1 Corinthians 6:12-20).**

#### **Conclusion-Response:**

- 1. Worship.** The fitting response to the presence of God is worship. Running and hiding from His presence is the byproduct of sin.
- 2. Get saved (Ephesians 1:13-14).**