

God's Dwelling Place

From the tabernacle to the gathered church, God's desire is to dwell with His people on the foundation of Jesus Christ.

SERMON TITLE	MINISTER
God's Dwelling Place	Tim Lee
DATE	PRIMARY SCRIPTURE
Wednesday, December 3, 2025	1 Corinthians 3:11 ; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

TOPICS [Christ](#) | [Presence](#) | [Body of Christ](#) | [Unity](#) | [Spiritual Maturity](#)

NOTES

Truth to carry into the week.

01 The Gospel is about receiving Jesus Himself.

- Jesus is not one part of the good news; He is the way, the truth, and the life through whom we come to the Father. ([John 14:6](#))
- Paul refused to build his ministry around personality or human wisdom, determining to know Jesus Christ and Him crucified. ([1 Corinthians 2:1-2](#))
- The church belongs to Christ, so every work, gift, and relationship must return to Him as its center. ([1 Corinthians 1:12-13](#))

"It's about receiving a person. It's about Him. It's about Him."

STUDY [John 14:6](#); [1 Corinthians 2:1-2](#)

02 God has always desired to dwell with His people.

- The tabernacle was built because God wanted a sanctuary in which He could dwell among Israel. ([Exodus 25:8](#))
- At the mercy seat, God promised to meet with His people and speak with them. ([Exodus 25:21-22](#))
- The movement from tabernacle to temple reveals a God who comes near, gives instruction, and makes fellowship possible. ([1 Kings 8:10-13](#))

"God's desire is to dwell with us, is to be with us."

STUDY [Exodus 25:8](#); [Exodus 25:21-22](#)

03 The temple points us to mercy in Christ.

- Sacrifice and blood at the mercy seat pointed forward to the redemption Jesus purchased with His own blood. ([1 Peter 1:18-19](#))
- Jesus identified His own body as the temple that would be raised after His death. ([John 2:19-21](#))
- Through His once-for-all sacrifice, we can draw near to God with confidence instead of remaining outside. ([Hebrews 10:19-22](#))

“The temple ultimately is a place of mercy.”

STUDY [John 2:19-21](#); [Hebrews 10:19-22](#)

04 Jesus Christ is the only foundation.

- Ministers may plant and water, but God gives the increase and receives the glory. ([1 Corinthians 3:5-9](#))
- No work can replace the foundation already laid, which is Jesus Christ. ([1 Corinthians 3:10-11](#))
- What we build will be tested, making obedience and eternal substance more important than appearance. ([1 Corinthians 3:12-15](#))

“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”

STUDY [1 Corinthians 3:5-15](#)

05 The gathered church is God’s dwelling place.

- Together, not merely as isolated individuals, the church is God’s temple and His Spirit dwells among His people. ([1 Corinthians 3:16-17](#))
- Living stones are joined together into a spiritual house where worship and service can rise to God. ([1 Peter 2:4-5](#))
- Jesus promises His presence where even two or three gather in His name. ([Matthew 18:20](#))

“We are a holy temple unto the Lord.”

STUDY [1 Corinthians 3:16-17](#); [1 Peter 2:4-5](#)

06 Division must give way to maturity and love.

- The church is urged to reject factions and come into the same mind and judgment under Christ. ([1 Corinthians 1:10-13](#))
- Envy, strife, and personality loyalty reveal carnality rather than spiritual maturity. ([1 Corinthians 3:1-4](#))
- Spiritual gifts serve their purpose only when love governs how the body speaks, ministers, and honors each member. ([1 Corinthians 12:12-27](#))

- Love is the more excellent way that keeps power and knowledge from becoming empty noise. ([1 Corinthians 13:1-8](#))

“Christ is not divided, but His body sure gets confused at times.”

STUDY [1 Corinthians 1:10-13](#); [1 Corinthians 13:1-8](#)

07 Faithful participation prepares us to serve.

- Every member has a place and a function; no part of the body can dismiss its own supply or another member’s need. ([1 Corinthians 12:14-21](#))
- Gathering consistently forms relationships, develops obedience, and prepares us to respond when ministry opportunities arise. ([Hebrews 10:24-25](#))
- The goal is not merely attendance but becoming available to the Holy Spirit and useful in the house He is building. ([Ephesians 2:19-22](#))

“There’s something to be said about showing up for practice.”

STUDY [Hebrews 10:24-25](#); [Ephesians 2:19-22](#)

SCRIPTURE INDEX - NKJV

Read the Word in context.

[John 14:6](#)

[1 Corinthians 2:1-2](#)

[1 Corinthians 1:10-13](#)

[Exodus 25:8](#)

[Exodus 25:21-22](#)

[1 Kings 8:10-13](#)

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[Hebrews 10:24-25](#)

[Ephesians 2:19-22](#)

How will you put the Word into practice?

Is Jesus Christ truly the foundation beneath the work you are building?

How does seeing the temple as a place of mercy change the way you draw near to God?

Where have preference, comparison, or division weakened your connection to the body of Christ?

What faithful act of participation will help you bring your supply to God's dwelling place?
