

From the Pulpit of the Japanese Baptist Church of North Texas  
May 27, 2018

Temple of the Holy Spirit  
1 Corinthians 6:19-20

6:19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,  
6:20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

### 1. The Holy Trinity

It is the “Holy Trinity Sunday,” today. It became clear that God is the “Father” and the “Son” and the “Holy Spirit” by descending of the Holy Spirit descended on Pentecost. God is one, but three. God is three, but yet one. We call this the “Holy Trinity.” Many things have been used to explain the “Trinity.”

First one is “regular triangle.” Each internal angle is 60 degree and equal each other. Three angles make one form. It explains that the “Father” and the “Son” and the “Holy Spirit” is equal each other and are yet one God.

Next is “water.” Water is liquid in normal temperature, but it becomes vapor after the boiling point, and becomes solid below freezing point. This explains that one God is also three – the “Father” and the “Son” and the “Holy Spirit.”

Another one is this. “ $1 + 1 + 1 = 3$ ” But if you rotate “+” sign a little, it becomes “x” sign, then the calculation becomes this way: “ $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$ ” Like this, three Persons can be one in God.

I brought a toy named “Fidget Spinner.” This has three weights. We just play spinning these weights. There are no rules to play with this toy. Each player can find their own creative ways. Throw and catch while it is spinning. It said that this toy is good for stimulating concentration power of children. If you explain “Trinity” using a Fidget Spinner, you can say that the “Father” and the “Son” and the “Holy Spirit” are three but one at the same time, as we see three parts when the spinner stops, but we only see one big circle while it is spinning.

However, all of the explanations are imperfect. God is totally different from man. The things in the nature and the human world cannot explain God who is transcends above them. However, we can believe in God and experience Him even though we cannot explain Him. God is a Person. It’s inappropriate to investigate God as a matter or a phenomenon. When we want to have an acquaintance, we never do in such way. We meet the person, and have conversation, and get to know the person. It’s same as we get to know God. We know God in the personal relationship; that is the relationship of “You and Me.”

We can know God only through Jesus Christ, the Son of God who became a human. He became a man to show the invisible God. He died on the cross and resurrected from death in order that the believers would be accepted by the Holy God. The believers in Christ are forgiven, and adapted as the children of God. Through Christ’s salvation we can get to know God and call Him “Father.”

All of us can recognize “god” from our birth. However, for most of the people the “god” is just a conceptual word which points the existence beyond men. But, “god,” starting with a lower case letter,

will become “God,” starting with an upper case letter, for you when you believe in Jesus Christ. God becomes the living One whose name is “God.”

God also becomes our “Father.” Those who believes in Jesus Christ, the true Son of God, are adapted as the children of God and allow us to call Him “Father!” Those who once have been in sins can not only come near to the Holy God, but also receive His love to themselves. And, the Holy Spirit, who dwells in us, give us a cry of “Father!” to God. We know the Holy Spirit by our prayer calling “Father!” to God. Thus, all Christians can get to know and experience the “Father” and the “Son” and the “Holy Spirit” by faith. If you do not call God “Father,” you may not become a Christian yet. Christians are those who are saved by the God of “Trinity,” and believe in God who is “Trinity,” and experience God in “Trinity.”

## **2. Temple of the Holy Spirit**

Many Christians says, “I can understand the Father and the Son, but there is something difficult to understand the Holy Spirit.” Why it’s so difficult? Because the Holy Spirit always works behind the scene and glorify the Father and the Son, not Himself. And, since the Holy Spirit is who leads our life in faith, you may not able to see His works when you just started your life in faith. Moreover, the Holy Spirit never force his works against our will. So we may quench His works when we don’t repent our sins or we do things by our own power without trusting Him. If you have no works of the Holy Spirit in you, you cannot know Him. Since the Holy Spirit works in our inner spiritual realm, we need to descend into our deeper inside and have

introspective and contemplative prayer for knowing the Holy Spirit. The most wanting is this kind of prayer for today's Christian. Therefore, we cannot understand the Holy Spirit. And, we cannot understand the "Holy Trinity" more deeply.

Please, don't stay in ignorance of the Holy Spirit! Study the Bible to know the Holy Spirit more, and pray more. And, recognize that each Christian and church, the body of believers, are the "Temple of the Holy Spirit" or the "Temple of God" in which He dwells. Then, let us walk in this truth.

It was written in First Corinthians 3:16 and 17 that Christians are the "Temple of the Holy Spirit" and the "Temple of God." The verse says, "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple." These words from Paul are actually quite strict because he is saying this to the Christians in Corinth, who were living in a way unworthy as the temple of the Spirit. These Christians knew they were the temple of the Holy Spirit, yet they still continued to destroy the temple with their own hands. When Paul says, "If anyone destroys God's temple . . .," he is not excluding Christians. Christians destroy themselves as the temple of the Spirit by their unworthy walk.

The things that the Corinthian Christians were destroying the Temple were divisions and factions, abuse of freedom, disobedience to the Apostolic authority, participating idol worship, disorders in the Lord's Supper and worship, and doubts of the resurrection. Our body is the Temple of the Spirit, and the Temple must be a holy place. If Christians are conformed by the world, it will defile the holiness of

the Temple and destroy it.

Just like First Corinthians 3:16-17, today's Scripture, First Corinthians 6:19-20, also begins in the same way: "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?" Paul is writing specifically about the immoral behavior that was commonly found in the Corinthian church. In the city of Corinth was a temple of the goddess Venus which had a thousand or so "sacred prostitutes." There were members of the church in Corinth that still frequented this temple of Venus. In response to this, Paul says, "Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never!" (1 Corinthians 6:15) The majority of Corinthian Christians must have surely separated themselves from the temple of Venus, but what Paul said concerned the entire Corinthian church because turning a blind eye to the sins of fellow church members is not how the body of Christ is united. They even were against Paul who taught repentance. Not against Paul, but against Christ who spoke to the church through Paul's mouth. Paul was speaking about it.

The only way for Christians to separate themselves from these sins is to live in a way that comes from understanding that they are the Temple of the Spirit and that they are part of the body of Christ. Paul is encouraging all Christians to return to their roots which is the salvation, and start the new life from there. The problems that the Christians in Corinth were experiencing may sneak into today's church in a different form. So, we too must remain conscious of how we live our lives and constantly return to the life that is worthy as the

Temple of the Holy Spirit.

### **3. Life By the Holy Spirit**

Christ sent us the Holy Spirit so that we may be separated from sin and live obedient to God. Without the Spirit, not only can we not evangelize and serve God, we also cannot live as the disciples of Christ.

It is a wonderful thing that we are able to call out to God as “my God” and as “my Lord.” However, without sincere repentance or true faith, it would be meaningless to repeatedly yell “My Lord! My Lord!” Saying “my God” and “my Lord” pleases God only when we entrust ourselves to Him and become followers of Christ. Worst of all would be to use the name of God for our own means and convenience.

“A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor? And if I am a master, where is my fear?” (Malachi 1:6) As Christians, we give our honor to our “Father” by trusting in Him, and we give our respect to our “Lord” by obeying him. But, the one that gives us the desire to be trusting servants of God is the Holy Spirit. Call upon the Holy Spirit and ask Him to make us live as the “Temple of the Holy Spirit.”

“Do you not know that .... you are not your own?” (1 Corinthians 6:19) When you became a believer of Christ you became the Temple of the Holy Spirit, so you are no longer your own. You no longer belong to yourself. How you live your life is no longer decided by you alone. When you truly understand this, the way you live your life will change completely.

“You were bought with a price” (1 Corinthians 6:20) Let us

consider the meaning of these words. The “price” that was paid is the life of Jesus Christ. Remember that you were so loved that Christ willingly gave up his life for you.

This year we are leaning the training for godliness according a book written by Dr. Chuck Swindoll. Dr. Swindoll was going the Peninsula Bible Church before he went to Okinawa as a marine. The church was pastored by Dr. Ray Stedman at the time. I had the opportunity to visit this church and noticed that the wood panel of the sanctuary had the words “YOU WERE BOUGHT AT A PRICE” written on one side, and “THEREFORE HONOR GOD WITH YOUR BODIES” on the other. This means that the members of this church see these words every time they come to church. Dr. Swindoll was also trained as a Christian by the verse.

“So glorify God in your body.” Let engrave the same verse into our souls. All Christians received the Holy Spirit and our bodies became the Temple of the Holy Spirit where the Holy Spirit lives there. This means we have been called to live faithful lives for the glory of God. By such life, let us glorify the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**(Prayer)**

Our Father in heaven, you have allowed us to become the home, the Temple of your Holy Spirit. Please use your Holy Spirit to help us to further understand this truth so that we may glorify your name with our bodies. We pray in the name of the one that brought us the Holy Spirit – our Lord, Jesus Christ,