

Holy Spirit (Pt. 4): Who's In "Your House"?

Introduction: In 1 Corinthians 6:19, Christians are called a "temple" or house of the Holy Spirit. This passage indicates that the Holy Spirit dwells in the Christian. Is there anything unique about this? Is there only room for the Holy Spirit? Let's see if we can achieve a well-rounded understanding of the concept as taught in 1 Corinthians 6, as well as other places in scripture.

1. There must be room for the entire Godhead.
 - A. Eph. 3:17; Rom. 8:9 - Christ and the Holy Spirit.
 - B. 1 Cor. 6:16 & 6:19 - The "living God" and the Holy Spirit.
 - C. 2 John 9 & Rom. 8:9 - We have the Father and the Son and should have the H.S.
 - D. Eph. 1:7 & 4:30 - We are "somewhere, too". We are in Christ and the Holy Spirit.
 - E. It appears that "geography" is not the purpose of mentioning location as much as the relationship or fellowship that exists between the believer and God.

2. No one gets in, even God, unless you allow him entrance.
 - A. Revelation 2:13 - How did Satan dwell in Pergamos?
 - B. Colossians 3:16 - The word of God dwells in you by your permission.
 - C. 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 - How were Israel and God "living partners"?
 - D. Romans 7:17-23 - We may not want it there, but sin can "take residence" in us if the conditions are allowed.
 - E. Romans 8:5-11 - You and I can hold the "flesh" or the "Spirit". It's our choice.

3. God "lives in Heaven" but he wants to live in me and you as well.
 - A. His place is in Heaven - 1 Kings 8:30,32,34,36,39,43,45; Isaiah 66:1
 - B. In the case of Solomon's temple, God wanted to be there as well. 1 Kings 9:3
 - C. But Israel could cause the temple to become "unoccupied". 1 Kings 9:4-9
 - D. People with God's Spirit, by choice will give evidence that he is there.
1 Corinthians 6:17-20. What happens if the evidence is gone? See Psm.51:10-11.

Conclusion: In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit is not represented as some overpowering force that takes residence in us and controls the atmosphere. It would appear that we can be "joint tenants" with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Our responsibility is to show evidence that the Godhead is there, in us, and that we want to live in a way that will cause God to want to stay.