

"...Whose house we are..."

"Every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God" (Hebrews 3:4). By the power of His word the Creator brought all things into existence. Jesus Christ is the beloved Son of God, and "...all things have been created through Him and for Him" (Colossians 1:16). He came to earth and did His Father's will. That will included Jesus building His church - His assembly, His called-out gathering of the saved (Matthew 16:18). His church is God's house.

The house of God is not a physical dwelling, nor is it a physical temple like the one which was built by King Solomon in Jerusalem long ago. The house of God is now the church of the living God. *"...I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15). This spiritual house is the household or family of God. It is not a dwelling made of stone or of wood. It is people who are members of God's household, of Christ's family. "Christ was faithful as a Son over His house - whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of the hope firm until the end" (Hebrews 3:6).*

Who are members of God's house? Since it is God's household, He determines who is and who isn't part of the house Christ built. Members of Christ's house are ***"holy brethren"*** because Jesus, the Sanctifier, sanctified them, making them His brethren (Hebrews 2:11-12; 3:1). God is holy, and His obedient children must seek to be holy too. Christ's brethren are also ***"partakers of a heavenly calling,"*** - sharers of a summons to a new and different vocation. This calling's origin is from heaven; its nature is of heaven; and its goal is heaven. Members are ***"partakers of Christ"*** (Hebrews 3:14). A believer becomes a companion with Jesus when he learns Christ's way, empties himself like Christ, abides in Christ's teaching and continues in Christ's word (Ephesians 4:20; Philippians 2:5; 2 John 9; John 8:31). If I do not adhere and do as revealed in the Gospel, then I am not a partaker of Christ, nor a member of God's house.

A house is built to be a dwelling. The spiritual house of called-out members whom Jesus purchased and built exists to be a dwelling for God in His people. This house is founded upon the fellowship of holiness through redemption and transformation in Christ. *"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit" (Ephesians 2:19-22). Are you an obedient child in this sacred household, who are "the temple of the living God" (2 Corinthians 6:16)?*