



# DO WE STILL NEED A TEMPLE?

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# WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

Mormons often wonder why Christians don't observe temple practices today. But the Bible addresses this exact issue. So what does the Bible teach us about our need for a temple today?

## #1: THE TEMPLE DISPLAYS OUR SEPARATION FROM GOD

First, God instructed His people to build a sanctuary that He... "may dwell in their midst" ([Exodus 25:8](#)). But because of their sin, God's people were prohibited from entering into His presence. So God commanded that the sanctuary be divided by a floor-to-ceiling curtain which served as a physical reminder of the spiritual separation between us and God.

## #2: THE TEMPLE WAS BUILT FOR SACRIFICE

Second, the temple was the center of the Old Testament sacrificial system. Forgiveness of sins was dependent upon regular sacrifices being offered there.

**"Under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins." (Hebrews 9:22)**

It was impossible for a man to be seen as right before God apart from these regular blood sacrifices. So the presence of a temple epitomized our separation from God, and our need for continual sacrifice. But Jesus changed everything!

**"But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God... For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified." (Hebrews 10:12-14)**

## THE TEMPLE SHOWS US THAT WE NEED JESUS!

When Jesus went to the cross, He was offering himself up as our ultimate, fully-sufficient sacrifice. And to demonstrate that Christ's death finally provides access to God, and that there is no longer a need for a physical temple, at the moment of Jesus' death on the cross the Bible tells us:

**"And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom." (Matthew 27:51)**

The entire temple system was fulfilled in Jesus! The Bible tells us that we can now...

**"... have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh." (Hebrews 10:19-20)**

## WE ARE THE NEW TEMPLE!

This is why Christians do not engage in temple worship any longer. In fact, the New Testament teaches us that the modern equivalent to the Old Testament temple is not a building at all...but God's people!

**"Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you...For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple." (1 Corinthians 3:16)**