

## **Your Body Is A Temple Of The Holy Spirit**

In 1 Corinthians 6:9 to 20 we read, 'Do you not know, that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived or misled; neither the impure or immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor prostitutes, nor homosexuals, nor cheats (swindlers and thieves) nor greedy graspers, nor drunkards, nor foulmouthed revilers, slanderers, blasphemers, nor extortioners and robbers will inherit or have any share in the Kingdom of God.

Verse 11; That is what some of you were, but you have been washed clean (purified by a complete atonement for sin and made free from the guilt of sin) and you were sanctified, and you were justified, that is pronounced righteous, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Holy Spirit of our God.

Everything is permissible for me [note: that is Paul the Apostle speaking] but not all things are beneficial. Everything is lawful for me but I will not become the slave of anything or be brought under its power. Food is intended for the stomach and the stomach for food, but God will finally end the functions of both. The body is not intended for sexual immorality, but is intended for the Lord and the Lord is intended for the body, and God raised the Lord to life and will also raise us up by His power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Am I therefore to take the parts of Christ and join them to a prostitute? Never! Never! Do you not know that when a man joins himself to a prostitute, he becomes one body with her? The two, it is written (in Genesis 2:24), shall become one flesh. But the person who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him.

Therefore, shun all immorality and all sexual thought, word or deed. Any other sin which a man commits is one outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit Who lives within you, Whom you have received as a Gift from God? You were bought with a price; purchased with Jesus' blood, paid for and made His own. So then honour God and bring glory to Him in your body'.

We Christians must not become proud and boast of our righteousness. We must always have the thought, "But for the grace of God, go I." We could all have been like one of those mentioned above, and may have been once, but thank God He has saved us from all unrighteousness; washed us in His blood. As followers of Jesus, our lives should be different. As Christians, our lives have been changed and we have been washed. Verse 11 is a good verse to memorise, to constantly remind ourselves of what He has done for us. He has washed, cleansed, sanctified, justified, purified and made us whole, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are especially thinking about our bodies. The human body is God's greatest creation. We have been wonderfully made. See Psalms 139:13 & 14. 'For You did form my inward parts; You did knit me together in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to You for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful. My soul knows that very well'.

Some people in the world today, are often so preoccupied with beautifying the outer body; they don't think that there is more to them than just the flesh. We all have a soul which is a whole other area of human life. For Christians there is a whole lot more. Not just body; not just spirit or soul but our bodies are a temple for God to dwell in. He no longer dwells in a man-made temple; He dwells in us; in our bodies. Read in 1 Corinthians 3:16 & 17. 'Do you not understand that you are God's temple, and that God's Spirit has His permanent dwelling in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy and sacred to Him; and so you - as His temple - are also holy'.

This knowledge is both exciting and daunting; we have great joy but also great responsibility. The temple is sacred; a place of worship; a place where God lives. That means at least four things; firstly, as a temple, our bodies are designed for the worship of God. That is our design. See Romans 12:1. 'I appeal to you therefore, in view of all the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication and offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service and act of worship'.

Secondly; this is the place where God lives. God, Who is Spirit, lives within us. That should bring you a sense of great joy. There are two people who live in this temple; one is the individual and the other Person is the Spirit of God. That gives us in a great responsibility to keep our 'house' clean because we can't expect God to live in an unclean temple.

Thirdly; our bodies are sacred. It is sacred because it is a place of worship; a place where the Holy Spirit lives and fourthly; our bodies do not belong to us. As we read earlier, we were bought by Jesus' blood and we are not our own. He created us, He bought us, He owns us and He has moved in! When we receive the Holy Spirit, we are indwelt by God and He has control of our lives. That is the way life should have been since Adam, but we know Adam disobeyed and we were lost. Once we receive the Holy Spirit, God comes in to put it right again. Jesus has redeemed us and bought us back. God has owned us twice. First, when He created us and again when Jesus redeemed us. He bought us, body, soul and spirit.

What is the logical outworking of God owning our bodies? If we can receive this truth in our hearts, then we will honour God with our bodies. We have to make sure everything we do and say glorifies Him. Many people will think, "But what about my rights? I can do anything I want with my body." That thought is rebellion against God. We are not our own, we belong to Him. He created us to love Him, and that includes worship; and we are to serve Him, which includes total obedience. As Jesus said, "Not My will but Yours be done."

As God's people we have been lifted up, up, up to a higher place; a place that the world cannot understand. Just as the Jewish Christians were released from the laws of Moses, so we have been set free from the law of sin and death, because we now have the Spirit of life dwelling within us. See Romans 8:1 & 2; 'Therefore, there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, for the law of the Spirit of life which is in Christ Jesus, has freed me from the law of sin and death'.

Christians no longer have to provide an animal for sacrifice and go through an earthly priest as the Jews had to. We can now respond to the prompting of the Holy Spirit through the sacrifice of our Great High Priest (Jesus) Who was the final sacrifice. Christians have been lifted out of the carnal rules of this world and set free. We are totally free from the binds of sin. Romans 5:5 & 8 says; 'For God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, Who has been given to us. God shows His love for us by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us'. The rest of Romans and the whole book of Galatians, explains all this in detail.

Paul, speaking in 1 Corinthians 6:12, was talking about everything being lawful to him but not always beneficial; and he would not become a slave to sin. There are some things that are lawful, but people become slaves to them. The drugs of alcohol and smoking are just two of such things. They are both very addictive and the person becomes a slave to the addiction. For the Christian, these things should be surrendered to God and put out of their life. These drugs do not honour God in any way. We cannot serve two masters. We must choose not to do some things even if we like to do them, and we must choose to do the things that will make our true Master, happy. We have to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit, because that is pleasing to Him and that's the way to honour God with your body; by listening to the Holy Spirit.

This body of flesh will one day be destroyed and we will be given a new resurrected body, but in the meantime, while we are on this earth, we need to honour God in our bodies. The body is not intended for sexual immorality, but was intended for the Lord. Just as food is for the stomach, so our bodies are for the Lord. They go together just as we are one with Him; closely linked together. Remember this; wherever we go, God goes with us. Think on this. Would we invite the Lord to a dirty, sexually explicit movie? No? Then don't go there. Would we take the Lord to a public bar and ask him to watch us get drunk? No? Don't go there. Would we take the temple of God and fill it with alcohol, illegal drugs, unhealthy food or cigarettes? Never! Would we invite the Lord to join with us in an unclean act of immorality? Never! It would be totally insulting to God.

Christians must flee from all sin and immorality. The Lord and the Christian are eternally linked together, so be sensitive to the purity of the Holy Spirit and don't expect Him to go to places that do not honour God, and where we go, He goes. We are joined with Him as one. If we see sin coming in whatever form, we must flee from it, just as we would if there was a tsunami coming our way. Don't play with immorality. Run from it or it will destroy. In Romans 12:2 we are told not to be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our minds, so that we may prove what is the good and acceptable will of God.

Christians need to deliberately choose to do what is right, good and pleasing to God, and to stand up for righteousness. We need to be good stewards and choose carefully what goes into our bodies. Choose healthy food and drink; shun unhealthy food, drugs and alcohol. We need to be good stewards and control what we think, see and hear. Shun unclean thoughts, do not watch unclean movies or listen to evil speech. Be careful about what music comes to our ears. We ought to only listen to music that honours God. Read Philippians 4:8. 'Whatever is true, whatever is worthy of reverence and is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is kind and gracious, if there is any virtue, if there is anything worthy of praise, think on these things (fix your mind in them)'.

Avoid whatever stimulates us the wrong way. Christians need to be good stewards with what we do. Follow the examples of Jesus. Live the way He did and avoid things that dishonour or displease the Lord. We need to be good stewards about what we will allow other people to do to our bodies. There are many things that are not appropriate for a Christian to allow, such as tattooing, acupuncture and many piercings. In Leviticus 19:28 we read something that might upset some people. 'You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh...nor print or tattoo any marks upon you; I am the Lord'. What we have here is the unchanging word of God and His word is always right, even if some people disagree with Him. If you disagree with Him, you need to humble yourself, repent and ask Him to show you what is right. Simply put; tattoos are sin. It doesn't matter when this was written, it is the word of God and we must obey. God doesn't change and our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. Remember He is the Holy Spirit and therefore we must be holy. Young ladies must not allow the boyfriend to do what he likes with her body and violate her. Ask yourself this question. Would Jesus do any of these things written in these last four paragraphs? No! Never! A million times, no! He would never do any of these things and He is our example. If we follow His example, there will be no shame.

We know our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, but we need to keep it at the top of our minds; keep reminding ourselves daily, walk in habitual holiness. We need to honour Him, please Him, worship Him and enjoy His endless presence.

Amen and God bless you.

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