

When Your Body Is A Temple

International Bible Lesson

1 Corinthians 6:11-20

Sunday, July 6, 2014

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"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20—KJV).

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20—NRSV).

Jesus told His disciples that if they loved Him, they would keep His commandments; and then He promised them that He would ask the Father to give them the Spirit of truth, who was abiding with them and who would soon abide within them (John 14:15-17). Perhaps so His disciples would recognize the Holy Spirit when He filled them on the Day of Pentecost, Jesus kept His promise and "breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit'" (John 20:22). After Jesus' death and resurrection, on the Day of Pentecost Peter preached that Jesus' promise was for "everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him" (see Acts 2:38-39). In his letters, Paul explained more about the power and purpose of the Holy Spirit. He stated clearly that the bodies of the Christians in Corinth (and indeed the bodies of all Christians) are temples of the Holy Spirit; therefore, Christians should be glorifying God with their bodies. Unfortunately, some of the Christians in Corinth (just as some Christians today) had fallen into the sinful ways of their predominant culture. Paul warned that because Christians are united to the Lord and have become one spirit with Jesus, they should not be using their bodies contrary to the teaching of the Scriptures and the commandments of Jesus. God gave bodies to His people so He could fill them with the Holy Spirit; by suffering and dying upon the cross, Jesus paid the price to make that possible.

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Thinking Further

1. What might Paul say to an unbeliever who continually disregarded the law of God?

2. What might Paul say to a believer who continually disregarded the law of God?

3. Why is it important to Christians today that God raised the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead?

4. How does knowing that your body is a member of Christ help you overcome temptations to sin?

5. What was the price that God paid so you could be forgiven for your sins, be cleansed from sin, and be filled with the Holy Spirit? What can you do in response?