

Parson to Person

1 Corinthians 6 (Part 3) (The Church Age Temple)

“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body *is* not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make *them* members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body *with her*? For ‘*the two,*’ He says, ‘*shall become one flesh.*’ But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*.

Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your

body and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:9–20 NKJV).

A Deeper Look

When taking a deeper look at 1 Corinthians 6, we must further address at least two specifics. The first is the nature of the believer's body as it relates to the dwelling place of God in the Church Age, and the second is the unique nature of the believer's body as the Temple of the Holy Spirit—in the Church age.

1)The Nature of the Believer's Body as it Relates to The Dwelling Place of God in The Church Age

The Church is the "Body of Christ" (see 1 Corinthians 12:27, Ephesians 4:12), and the believer's body has become the dwelling place of God in the Church Age. This fact requires some explanation.

The Two Becoming One

The "Body of Christ" has been made one in and with the Lord (see John 17:11,21–22). For this reason, Paul addressed at least four ways in which we must view unification and our need to be faithful in and to the Lord.

- 1)Our spiritual union with Christ: *"He who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him"* (vs. 17).
- 2)Our physical union with Christ: *"Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?"* (vs. 15a).
- 3)Marriage as an illustration: *"For 'the two,' He says, 'shall be one flesh'"* (vs. 16b).

4) The forbidden nature of any unholy union: *“Do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her?”* (vs. 16a).

With these things in mind, Paul commanded that the believer’s physical body, *“bought at a price,”* be kept holy—as the dwelling place of God, in the Spirit. Paul demanded that all believers understand this and therefore live in harmony with the realities of their spiritual condition.

What Are We Talking About?

There has been no end to the many discussions about how a believer is to handle the responsibilities of his or her physical body: *“the [Church Age] Temple of the Holy Spirit”* (vs. 19). For some believers this means taking a very legalistic approach to the physical body regarding physical exercise, diet, tattoos, and consumables such as tobacco. However, within Church Age doctrine the use of all foods are permitted—without restriction. Bodily exercise is good—but given a “back seat” to the spiritual/eternal. The Bible is silent on tobacco—and New Testament Church Age doctrine mentions nothing of tattoos.

The Scriptures do forbid gluttony but with little or no reference to obesity. Gluttony seems to carry the meaning of a passionate lack of self-control or intentional disregard for restraint of the appetites—and thus may involve more than food. Paul indirectly pointed to this when he said, *“Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them”* (vs. 13a)—but concluded that we are not to be *“brought under the power of any[thing]”* (vs. 12b). Therefore, although gluttony may

include food, we must also recognize the lust for money, alcohol, sex, desire, etc.

The eating of certain or excessive amounts of food, excessive drinking, tobacco use, tattooing, etc. may be considered harmful. However, Paul's focus to the physical body as "*the Temple of the Holy Spirit*" related to the fact that our bodies belong to Lord, they are to be holy, and therefore must not be utilized in "*sexual immorality but for the Lord*" (vs. 13b).

Therefore, the Corinthians' engagement in fornication and adulterous activity must stop. The same rule applies to the Church today. The defiling of the temple was in singular about fornication. No fornication, no adultery! Be holy—set apart for the Lord.

2)The Unique Nature of the Believer's Body as the Temple of the Holy Spirit in the Church Age

Much has been said of the physical earthly temples described in the Scriptures. These temples may be classified by the following: 1) The Tabernacle (Tent of Meeting), 2) The Solomonic Temple, 3) The Zerubbabel Temple (post Babylon), 4) The Herodian Remodel, 5) The Church Age Temple, 6) The (future) Tribulation Temple, and 7) The (future) Millennial Temple.

A studious look at the various temple structures would be exciting. However, for our purposes within this chapter, we must consider the 5th Temple— the Church!

1)The Church Age Temple is not built by human hands—we are a living temple, made in the image of God, being built together,

by God Himself. (See Genesis 1:27, Matthew 16:18, 2 Corinthians 5:1, Ephesians 2:20–22)

- 2) The Church Age Temple has been purchased by God, is for God, and has been set apart for God as Holy through one sacrifice—you were bought at a price. (1 Corinthians 6:19–20)
- 3) The Church Age Temple cannot be destroyed—it has been spiritually redeemed and will be physically redeemed. (See Romans 8:23 and 1 Corinthians 6:14)
- 4) The Church Age Temple will not be abandoned as the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit—He “*will never leave you nor forsake you*” (Hebrews 13:5b). (See also 1 Corinthians 6:19, 2 Corinthians 5:5, Ephesians 1:13–14)
- 5) The Church Age Temple is physically mobile and is a geographically global “sanctuary.” Therefore, the Church Age Temple is readily accessible to a needy world, is the present day house of Worship for all nations, moves under the inspiration and power of the Holy Spirit, and is representing the Lord to a needy world. (See Acts 1:1–8)

May the Lord unify and build us all together in the Spirit—as He sees fit. May the Lord further shape us into the image He has foreordained each and every day—as we await our final redemption. May the Lord use us as His ambassadors in a dark and needy world. May the Lord fill us with His Spirit—and move us in our great and high calling in Christ Jesus.

I love you all,
Pastor Paul