

The Lord for the Body

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

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. ¹³ 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**. ¹⁴ And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. ¹⁵ 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! ¹⁶ 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.”¹⁷ But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. ¹⁸ Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. ¹⁹ 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? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

We have been talking about a life of faith and about the prayer of faith. In particular we have been looking at faith as it pertains to us seeking God, trusting God, praying to God for the healing of our physical needs. Now such a prayer should be one of faith. Multiple times Christ will tell individuals that they received healing from him because of their faith. In Nazareth we are told that Christ could not do any great miracles because of the people’s unbelief. Faith is the hand that reaches out to take Christ’s as our healer. But although we are making a specific application of Divine healing the overarching thing we are learning is how we come to faith. We have indicated a very important point on this matter. **God never calls us to exercise faith without evidence.** The faith and belief that God calls us to is born out of strong evidence. And without that evidence we are not expressing faith; Christian faith as Christ intends it. Faith without evidence is fanaticism; its wishful thinking; it’s the suspension of reality for unreality. No we need strong evidence, and that evidence which drives faith is *not positive thinking or an emotional sentimental investment*. People my age can remember the pop song by Debbie Boone, “You Light up my Life.” The line in it went, “*It can’t be wrong when it feels so right.*” But it can. It really can. That is not a good strategy for placing your faith in someone or something. You need stronger evidence than “*I feel it.*” The faith God calls us to is something verifiable.

Ex. John the Baptist found himself in prison. It wasn’t what John was expecting for himself and not the outcome he anticipated in his ministry. He was to be the great announcer of the coming of the Messiah. In the darkness of Herod’s prison cell John began to doubt. He sent some of his disciples to the Lord Jesus with a question. “*Are you really the One we have been waiting for, the Savior of men or do we need to look for someone else?*” You have to appreciate that John the Baptist is straightforward with his questions. He does not patronize Jesus or play a religious game with his doubts. He is

open and honest. “*Are you him or not or do we need to look elsewhere?*” **ASIDE:** Let me just say here real quick that God is never put off by an honest question. In fact, His call to come to Him in faith is a call to ask question, seek evidence... but when He gives it to you... you are called to a decisive faith in Him. Don’t beat around the bush with your questions. Ask Him. But don’t beat around the bush once He answers. Make your choice. Once the evidence is in; once God gives the answer; faith is call for... your faith in Him is called for. Go to **Luke 7:20-23** and read with me - ²⁰*When the men had come to Him, they said, ‘John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, ‘Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?’ ”* ²¹*And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight.* ²²*Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them.* ²³*And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.”* John things aren’t happening the way you thought they would but here’s the evidence that I am the coming one. You’ll be blessed if you are not offended that I don’t do things just the way you expect. But you still believe in me. Jesus didn’t say, “Ask John what his heart tells him.” Or “John just needs to believe more. If he had more faith he’d get out of that prison.” No! Christ pointed to the evidence and called upon John to relent in his doubt in spite of his own disappointments and believe in him. Here is the idea we are leading with... faith is staked out upon evidence. Now back to seeking God to heal you for a physical need. What evidence do you go to God with to have faith that he would heal you?

1st the Covenant God has made with us and kept with others throughout history is an evidence for our faith. In our last message we pointed out that God has opened up to us an expectation (a place for faith) in His healing of our bodies because of the covenant relationship we have with him through Jesus Christ. The Christian shares a relationship with God where we have given ourselves to God and God has given Himself to us. And one of the covenant names God gives for Himself is *Jehovah Ropheh* The Lord our Healer. The history of God’s work among the Jews as His covenant people is a history infused with the record of his Divine health and healing given to them. Jesus when He came offered that healing to the Jews and called it the “children’s bread.” Now we have, through Jesus dying for our sins and our faith in Him been brought into this covenant relationship and this promise is for us too. That is why **James 5:14** gives us instructions on coming to God in faith for this covenant provision. *Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.*

Now here is another evidence for faith for healing in **1 Corinthians 6:12-20...**

2nd God has bought your body with an incalculable price. Vs. 20

You are not your own for you were bought with a price. God bought us when on the cross His Son shed His blood as the price of our sins.

Let me just note two things here and then expand on this point of evidence.

- A. When we think of the sufferings of our Savior and the blood that He shed for our sins; we must not think He only purchased our essential spiritual selves. He didn't die to claim our immaterial souls alone. He died on that cross to claim your body as His as well. He had a physical attraction to you. He is the One Who made that body and He wished to reclaim it as His own.
- B. Because our bodies have been purchased with the precious blood of Jesus Christ we must realize that this body belongs not to me but to God. It is mine by way of stewardship or custodially. But make no mistake. It is God's body. As such we have no right to use our bodies or abuse our bodies in a way that is an offense to God and not an act of care for His possession and not the use of this body to honor and obey Him.

The Greeks had a very negative view of the human body. They considered it a tomb or an unimportant shell that housed the all-important spirit. As such they either abused the body or they indulged it and feed it all its pleasures. Neither way was a problem for them since the body was unimportant. In our passage Paul is quoting this Greek idea. When He says, *The food for the stomach and the stomach for food.* Basically the prevailing thought in Corinth was "*The Body doesn't matter so what you do with the body doesn't matter. It is all going to be destroyed anyway so enjoy it while you got it.*" Paul is saying that this idea is wrong. Your body was bought with the precious blood of Jesus. You are a custodian of His possession and you must use that body in a way that honors Him. Paul is teaching them and us that God has given your body all its appetites and not one of them is intrinsically wrong but those appetites are not to be used in a way that is destructive to the body or out of God's will because your body is important to God. So important that he bought it for Himself on the cross.

Let's expand on this evidence...

God bought this body with an incalculable price in order to live in it. Your Body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit's vs 19. "...or do you not know that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit in you, whom you have from God." God did not only purchase your body. He has taken up residency in it. Now for the Christian, that sanctuary is holy for in it abides God the Father, and God the Son through God the Holy Spirit dwelling in us. And we must take care never to defile that holy place.

God bought your body to live in it and therefore your Body is Christ's Body vs 15 "...do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ..." Christ claims your body as His own. He intimately identifies you and your body with Himself. It is true... These are His hands and His feet in this world today. There is a vital connection of the Spirit of the Living Christ with and in my body.

Let's stop here and consider this evidence. You are not just a body with a spirit or a spirit with a body. You are both. But your spirit though brings an animating power to your body.

In **2 Corinthians 5:8** Paul says that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. What happens when your spirit leaves your body? Well for the believer it means that your spirit goes into the presence of Jesus Christ in heaven. But what happens to your body when your spirit leaves it? It dies. Your spirit's have a power that they lend to your bodies. And without them the material body you have stops operating. Now if the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ Jesus is dwelling in our bodies should we not also expect that His presence will infuse power and life to our physical bodies? **Romans 8:11** gives us the answer - *But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.* The Holy Spirit living in my body works in much the same way (only more markedly) as my own spirit. It gives it life... it sparks vitality to it. I believe that such a line of evidence grants me a place to confidently take hold of God by faith and expectantly, calmly claim health for my physical need.

Let's press on in our text...

God bought your body to live in it and has also destined your body for physical resurrection vs 14 - *And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.* There are two words used here one for the resurrection of Christ's body and one for the resurrection of our bodies. For the raising of Jesus body we read God ἐγείρω egeiro **raised** him. For the raising up of our own bodies we read that God ἐξεγείρω exegeiro will **out raise** us. When Christ died for our sins his body didn't see corruption. But for all but those who are not living when Christ returns our bodies shall see corruption, they shall go into the grave and rot and molder there. But out of that corruption God is going to raise up our bodies. Why is he raising our bodies? Well you will see here that Paul says, "*God both raised the Lord and will raise our bodies.*" Our bodily resurrections are tied into his bodily resurrection. This logically follows that if our bodies are Christ's own members, purchase by Him for His possession and for His dwelling place than they cannot be destined for the grave any more than his body was.

Now you may say but Joel in heaven we are given a new body... a glorified body? And this is true but that new body is the renewal of this body... The resurrection doesn't bring an end to this old body but the complete fulfillment and glorification of it. It will be our final divine healing!!!

Now in light of what this body is destined for and the glory that will one day radiate from our bodies we should live in it now with the dignity God is planning for it then.

Application: If my body is purchased and possessed by Christ, indwelt by the Spirit, an extension of Christ own body and destined to be brought into Christ own glorious resurrection as His body... So I am to occupy this body for Christ glory and honor. Paul puts it this way... My Body is For the Lord.

However as an 2nd layer of evidence for faith that would seek and claim healing for your body. *Your body for the Lord...* but it goes another way to... **THE LORD IS FOR YOUR BODY.** He is in your body. He is lives in it to grant you power and strength to carry out His will. He moves within the very pulses of your physical being. And He has a name that He gave Himself. The Lord our healer. He is the great physician.

Christ walked all over Israel healing all who came to him at that time of his earthly ministry. He healed as an invitation for the Jews to claim their covenant privileges through Him. He healed as a revelation that He was their Messiah, Savior. He was their covenant mediating Savior. And so He offered them healing and He called that healing "The children's bread." The expected food for them.

Now you see that He has purchased your body on the cross. He dwells in your body as His very own. He walks about your own body as His temple, lives in abiding covenant relationship with you. He plans to one day to completely glorify your body in the resurrection... That is all evidence. Teachings, promises, He has given to you. Now can you believe all that evidence; what he did in Israel and what He is in you today... and yet not trust Him, expect Him, to heal you and divinely meet your physical needs and care for your body... HIS BODY... just as he cared for those in Israel so long ago?

Don't get sick and then just thoughtlessly... when you run out of options... cross yourself or your fingers and throw up a prayer... God if it might be in your pleasure and will to heal me etc. Place your finger on the story and the evidence... He is the One who gave it to you... it will not offend Him... place it there and say God this... I am trusting you for this... I am not looking for just healing or health... I am trusting in you as the owner and possessor of my body to take good care of me for your glory. God forgive me for not taking care to glorify you but Lord I want to and I trust you for this in Jesus name amen.