

Ye Are the Temple

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Straight Paths Bible Church

(1 Cor 3:16-17) Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? {17} If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

(John 2:19-21) Jesus answered and said unto them, **Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.** {20} Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? {21} But he spake of the temple of his body.

- I. A temple is a place where God dwells.
 - A. It is a place where God can be found.
 - B. It is a place that is identified with God.
 - C. It is a place where people can go to meet with God.
 - D. It is a place that is appropriate and fitting for God to dwell in.

- II. Know ye not that ye are the temple of God?

(1 Cor 6:19) 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?*

- A. Those who are truly the children of God have the Spirit of God living in them and their body is the temple of God.
 - 1. God dwells IN them – not over them or around them or with them.
- B. Our body is our means of experiencing and communicating with others and the world we live in.
 - 1. We are a soul that lives in a body of clay.
 - 2. Without eyes to see and ears to hear we could not communicate or interact with this world at all.
- C. Our body is the only means that others have to know us.
 - 1. Our words, our facial expressions, our actions, and our attitudes reveal to them who and what we are.
 - 2. The appearance of our body conveys to others an idea of what kind of creature lives inside of it.
 - a) Clothes, hair, cleanliness, attention to orderliness and not sloppy.
- D. Most people will identify themselves by what they do with their body.
 - 1. The clothes they wear and how they wear them.
 - 2. By mutilating their body with piercing, tattoos, or surgery that alters their gender or appearance.
 - 3. By distorting what a person made in the image of God should look like – wild hairdos, sloppy, disorderly hair and clothing, heavy makeup.
 - 4. Someone who is always drastically changing their appearance is without an identity and seeking one that will work for them. They see themselves as a misfit and don't know where they belong.
- E. People use their body to draw attention to themselves.
 - 1. Sensual clothing, actions, and appearance.
 - 2. All the things mentioned above.

III. We all have a choice in life to belong to God or to claim ownership of ourselves.

(1 Cor 6:20) For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

- A. To maintain your right to yourself now means you have no claim on God's promises for now or eternity.
- B. To give yourself to God means your body becomes the temple He dwells in.

(2 Cor 6:16) And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

- C. If God dwells in you then you are responsible to make sure of some things.
 - 1. That it is a place where God can be found.
 - 2. That it is a place that is identified with God.
 - 3. That it is a place where people can go to meet with God.
 - 4. That it is a place that is appropriate and fitting for God to dwell in.

(Rom 12:1-2) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. {2} And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

- D. If you defile (destroy) the temple – God will destroy you.
 - 1. You cannot defile your body without destroying your soul.
 - 2. If you defile the temple of God – God will deal with you harshly.
 - 3. Because the temple of God is holy.
 - 4. Your body belongs to God and you have no right to defile it.
 - 5. You should not do anything with your body that you wouldn't do with someone else's property.