

Holy Living in Earthly Bodies

Being Sanctified Vessels, the Temple of the Spirit of God
1 Corinthians 6:9-20

Getting Started:

1. Let's begin by re-reading 1 Corinthians 6:9-20 and refresh our memories about this week's focal text. Take your time and really let the text sink in.
2. Did you learn anything new from this week's message that you want to share with the group? How were you challenged? What one thing really stood out to you?
3. Was there anything that you heartily agreed or disagreed with in this week's sermon...and why?

Exploring the Text:

1. The big idea this week is that our bodies belong to the Lord, and because of this, we should be holy and set apart unto God...in our earthly bodies. Let's talk more about being the Lord's possession by looking at a few supplemental verses.
 - a. Romans 14:8
 - b. Psalm 100:3
 - c. 1 Peter 2:9
 - d. Ephesians 1:13-14
2. Christians should seek to live holy lives in our earthly bodies because we have been saved from our past and transformed into Kingdom Heirs. A transfer has taken place. Once we were lost in sin, but we have been transferred into salvation and are heirs of all of God's promises. How does thinking of ourselves as a new creature, as sons and daughters of God, as inheritors of God's Kingdom help us to frame our daily lives for holy conduct?
3. Paul warned the Corinthians that they should not be deceived by those who say that they are Christians but who unrepentantly remain in lifestyles of sin. What can we learn from this idea about a person's words and actions? If a person's words and actions do not agree, which should we believe first? *Hint: People do what they believe.*

4. Paul noted that many at Corinth had been delivered from unregenerate lifestyles in their pre-Christian experience. What encouragement can we take from Paul's understanding that some of the Corinthian believers "were" formerly in lifestyles such as these, but that they had been washed, sanctified, and justified in Jesus?
5. Paul recognized that in the culture at Corinth, many people lived as though it didn't matter what you did in your physical body, so long as you were spiritual in your mind and heart. This idea was called Greek dualism. Where do you see this idea prevalent in our culture today? What would Paul have to say about it if he were here with us tonight?
6. In verses 12-18 Paul instructs the Corinthians that all things are lawful for them, but not all things are profitable. How can the choices that we make as Believers either lead us further into Holiness, or back into bondage? What advice would you give a new Believer in the use of liberties, and what other parameters should we place on the use of our liberties?
7. Paul says that Christians should "flee" sexual sins. There are times to stand and fight, and times when we cannot stand to fight. Why does Paul teach us to run away fast from sexual immorality? Why do you think this kind of sin is not a stand and fight sin? *Hint: V.18*
8. What did Paul mean when he said that our bodies were Temples of the Holy Spirit? How does this idea make my body just as holy as the most sacred house of worship...the loftiest cathedral? What are some implications of this holy identity?

Digging Deeper:

1. As we think about being "saved people", and reflect on the places that God has brought us from...lifestyles that He has saved us from...are those memories inspiring us to live a Holy life now, since we have been washed, sanctified, and justified?
2. Have you ever had a conversation with God about your body? Have you discussed with God that you recognize that your body is His possession? What difference would it make in your efforts to live a holy life for God if you acknowledged that your body isn't "your body" anymore?

3. When a Christian sins, the Holy Spirit is there. The Spirit cannot sin, for God cannot sin...but the Spirit certainly witnesses many sins. How should it impact our striving to be holy when we think of ourselves as a Temple for the Spirit, and of His being in us all of the time?