

Our Bodies Belong To God

by

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1 Cor. 6:19-20

The name of a popular book for women is “Our Bodies, Ourselves”, self-described as “a book by and for women about health and sexuality”; which among other things approves of abortion and lesbianism. The premise is that women are free to do with their bodies as they wish.

Such a premise for both men and women in Christ is contradictory to the Bible.

We do not have the right to do whatever we desire with our bodies.

We belong to God, both body and spirit. We are not ourselves, but God’s!

Nowhere is this stated more clearly than in our text. 1 Cor. 6:19-20, *“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.”*

Where Christians are told...

Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit

In which the Spirit indwells.

Written elsewhere of the church in general.

- 1 Cor. 3:16-17, *“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.”*
- 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.”*
- Eph. 2:21-22, *“In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”*

Applied in our text to our bodies individually. 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?”*

As motivation for holy living, to flee sexual immorality. 1 Cor. 6:13-19, *“Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body. And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power. Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. 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?”*

The fact of the Spirit’s indwelling should affect how we use our bodies!

The Spirit is given to us from God.

The Spirit is promised to those who believe, repent and are baptized.

- John 7:37-39, *“In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)”*
- Acts 2:38-39, *“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”*

The Holy Spirit is received by those who obey God.

- Acts 5:32, *“And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.”*
- Gal. 3:26-27, *“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”*

- Gal. 4:6, “*And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.*”

This is an earnest (down payment) of our ultimate redemption.

- Eph. 1:13-14, “*In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*”
- Eph. 4:30, “*And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*”
- 2 Cor. 1:22, “*Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.*”

The blessing of the Spirit’s indwelling should impact how we use our bodies!

To drive the point home that we are not free to use our bodies however we wish, our text also says...

Our bodies were bought at a price

We have been bought...

By the blood of Christ.

- Acts 20:28, “*Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*”
- 1 Pet. 1:18-19, “*Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*”

Both body and soul. 1 Cor. 6:19-20, “*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.*”

Thus we also look for the redemption of the body (resurrection). Rom. 8:23, *“And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.”*

God purchased our bodies for both now and the future!

We are not our own.

As Paul clearly states in our text. 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?”*

As Paul stresses time and again elsewhere.

- Rom. 14:7-8, *“For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord’s.”*
- 2 Cor. 5:15, *“And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.”*
- Tit. 2:14, *“Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”*

We were redeemed to be the Lord’s special people! Redeemed by the blood of Christ, our bodies are not our own. Indeed, as our text reveals...

Our bodies are to glorify God

Our bodies...

Are now members of Christ. 1 Cor. 6:13-15, *“Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body. And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power. Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid.”*

To be used for the Lord, not immorality. Otherwise we make members of Christ members of a harlot!

Are now to be instruments of righteousness.

- Rom. 6:12-13, *“Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.”*
- Rom. 6:19, *“I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.”*

No longer instruments of unrighteousness to sin. No longer slaves of uncleanness leading to lawlessness.

Clearly, they are not to be used for sin or self!

To glorify God.

By how we live. 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. 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.”*

Living sacrificial, holy lives, acceptable to God; demonstrating that God’s will is good, acceptable, and perfect.

By how we die. Phil. 1:20-21, *“According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”*

Magnifying God in how we die (with faith and hope); knowing that to die is gain for the Christian. Phil. 1:23, *“For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:”*

Clearly, our bodies are to glorify God, not self!

Conclusion.

The world would have us view our bodies...

- As owned by ourselves, and no one has a right to tell us how to use it.
- As an instrument of pleasure, to be used as we please.
- As something to be discarded at death, needed no more.

God would have us view our bodies...

- As the temple of the Holy Spirit.
- As belonging to God, purchased at a price.
- As an instrument through which we are to glorify Him.
- As that which will be redeemed, when raised and given immortality as a spiritual body for the soul.

Indeed, our bodies are gifts from God of which we must be wise stewards.

Are we using our bodies in ways that glorify Him?

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.”*

