

2022 Theme: Life with the Indwelling Holy Spirit

Text: I Cor. 6:19

Date: 1-9-22 @ 10:30 AM

2020's theme was: **"A Heart Fully Devoted to God's Word."** We needed that unmovable foundation as our freedoms, norms, and politics shifted and swayed.

A humble life is a sweet testimony of God's work in our lives and helps us draw closer to God with a right attitude. It also will attract unsaved people to our Savior. So our 2021 Theme was: **Joyfully Displaying the Humility of Christ.**

2022 theme: ***Life with the Indwelling Holy Spirit**, a twist on the long-time motto of our church when my dad was pastor, which was *Outliving the Inliving Christ.**

In the first epistle to the Corinthians Paul takes up matters related to the local church.

Chapter 6 tells of personal disputes that had arisen within the Corinthian church.

Verses 9-10 include a list of sins that were prevalent in the Corinthian society, and the young believers in the Corinthian church were learning how to live new lives separate from those behaviors.

Some (but not all) the Corinthian Christians had been guilty of the sins listed in verses 9–10, but God had intervened. They were washed ... by the Spirit (cf. Titus 3:5), sanctified in the Son (cf. 1 Cor. 1:2), and justified before God (cf. Rom. 8:33). "This fact of justification was an appropriate thought for those judicially carping Corinthians".¹

Paul addressed another issue in the church wherein some believed it was permissible to do anything under the guise of Christian freedom.

Paul drew a sharp line between the stomach and the **body**. The body (*sōma*) in this context (cf. 2 Cor. 12:3) meant more than the physical frame; it referred to the whole person, composed of flesh (the material) and spirit (the immaterial; cf. 2 Cor. 2:13 with 7:5). The "body," therefore, was not perishable but eternal (1 Cor. 6:14), and it was **not meant for sexual immorality** (*porneia*) but for union with the Lord (vv. 15–17), which is reciprocal (cf. Eph. 1:23)".²

Truth: The Trinity has every right to our bodies for each Person of the Godhead is involved with their creation, function, and re-creation.

Therefore, that which the Father gave us, that which the Son died for, and that which the H.S. lives within should be used for God's glory and not defiled for immoral purposes.

Do you not know that your body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit?

"It may be that Paul is here describing not only the individual believer, but also the local church. Each local assembly is a "body" of people united to Jesus Christ. The conduct of individual members affects the spiritual life of the entire church".³

¹ Lowery, D. K. (1985). [1 Corinthians](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 506). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

² *ibid*

³ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [The Bible exposition commentary](#) (Vol. 1, p. 589). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

What does Paul mean by our body being a temple?

Answer: The church is a spiritual organism and, as a whole, represents His body here on earth, and each individual person enters this universal church by means of the baptism by the Holy Spirit. The picture then is the close, organic, alive relationship between Christ and His followers.

Truth for 2022: Your body belongs to the Holy Spirit and is His place of dwelling, and knowledge of this should motivate you to bring honor to the Lord in its use.

When we give our bodies over to fornication we are desecrating God's temple for profane benefits.

“. . .Paul's greatest concern for the community of Jesus' followers in Corinth was that they would not fully leave behind the culture of Corinth and live as witnesses of God's better way. If they did not separate themselves from their previous lifestyle and learn to live as God's witnesses – a colony of heaven in Corinth – they could not fulfill the mission of making God and the *shalom* of his kingdom known in that city” (Vander Laan 243).

Paul was clear that leaving the old lifestyle meant a life change inside and out. Now the Holy Spirit was living within them and their lives should no longer be lived for the fleshly pleasures and to please gods but to live for the God of the universe. Our position is settled in heaven (Col. 3:1). Instead of living for gods, the God of the universe resides within us. Therefore, we should desire to live separate, holy, distinctive lives for the glory of God.

Questions:

- 1) Do we actively recognize that our souls are the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit?
- 2) How does the Holy Spirit's indwelling then impact our thoughts and actions?
- 3) Do you and I live differently as a result or do we merely outwardly conform?
- 4) Do we live for ourselves or for the One who has changed us and lives within us?

In 2022, let us be a church, a body of believers, who eschew the carnal, immoral, ungodly ways of our culture and live in such a way that it is obvious to the fellow members of our local body and our community that the Holy Spirit is dwelling within us, and let us bring honor to the Lord.