



## THE BODY: THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD

The Word of God declares: “...**ye are the temple of the living God**; as God has said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” 2Cor. 6:16 Complete this study to learn the purpose of your Body Temple, the penalty for abusing it and God’s simple plan for its restoration.

### The Four Foundational Truths Concerning the Body Temple

- 1) What interesting phrase does Paul use to communicate that idea that men and women are the dwelling place of God’s Spirit? 1Cor. 3:16

**Note:** Paul asks the important question “Don’t you know that you are the **temple of God**?” The Greek word for “temple” here is *naos* (3485) it means “to dwell, a shrine, temple”. Thirteen times in the Gospels this same word is used to describe the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem (Matt. 23:35; 27:51; Luke 1:21,22) but Jesus used this same word to refer to **His body** John 2:19-21. The Jews stumbled over the meaning of His words because they didn’t understand that both the “building” and our “bodies” are designed for the same purpose, to be the dwelling place for God’s Spirit.

- 2) What sobering idea did Paul express concerning the treatment of our “holy” body temples? 1Cor. 3:17

**Note:** The alternative reading for “defile” found in most Bible margins is “destroy”. Paul makes clear that anyone that destroys his or her body temple (and does not repent) will be destroyed in the lake of fire. Notice that the punishment mentioned is not the natural consequence of some disease process. The Bible does NOT say: “If any man defile the temple of God, him shall **disease** destroy”; it says him shall **God** destroy. The Bible is clear that those who destroy themselves through alcohol and fornication will not be saved unless they repent 1Cor. 6:9,10 Rev. 21:8. The abuse of your body is a capital offense.

- 3) What question does Paul ask in order to get the Corinthian believers to understand that their bodies do **not** belong to them? Copy 1Cor. 6:19 below.

**Note:** Most people mistakenly believe that **THEY** are the owners of their own bodies. That’s why they feel that they can eat what they want, dress it anyway they like, bruise it at will through sporting activities, pierce it, tattoo it or surgically alter it anyway they desire. But the Bible asks: “Don’t you know... that **you are not your own**?” Paul says: “...ye are **God’s** building” 1Cor. 3:9. A responsible person would not paint, alter, damage or put alternate fuel in a car that was loaned to them without the owner’s consent. Paul continues in 1Cor. 6:20 to explain that we have been **purchased** with “a price”.

- 4) We have already seen that the Scriptures teach that: A) God’s Spirit dwells in this body. B) Those who defile this body will be destroyed. And C) Our bodies do not belong to us. What is the fourth foundational truth concerning the body temple that we find in the last part of 1Cor. 6:20?

**Note:** Paul says that because the Holy Ghost is “in you”, because you do not belong to yourself, because you have been bought with a price we are to “glorify God” in our body and spirit. When we use our bodies to glorify **ourselves** we steal glory from God. Tight and revealing clothing, excessive make-up and jewelry, even showy displays of physical prowess attract attention to corruptible man. The Christian who follows the pattern of the meek and humble Jesus, will dress and conduct himself in a manner that will not draw undue attention to himself. By speaking God’s words, doing God’s works, by adopting the self-denying disposition of the Cross, their life will express the sentiment of Jesus when He said in reference to God: “I have glorified **thee** on earth...” John 17:4

### Satan’s Warfare Against God’s Temple

- 5) What activity was supposed to take place in the house of God --the actual building Temple? Psalms 5:7

**Note:** The literal Temple built by the Hebrew people according to God’s specifications was for the express purpose of **worship**. In like manner, each of us has been given a physical body for our mind and spirit to dwell in. All of man’s powers -- physical, mental and spiritual-- are to be employed in the **worship** of our Creator. Not only our spiritual natures, but our thoughts, our speech, our lips, stomachs and back muscles are to be used to bring glory and praise to God 1Cor. 10:13.

- 6) In Bible times, what did God’s enemies do to stop the true worship of God from taking place at His Temple? Psalms 74:4,7

**Note:** Throughout the history of the Jewish nation Satan worked through his agents to cast down God’s Sanctuary and destroy it (2Kings 25:8-10). The marauding armies would roar with shouts of battle. They would signal to their various companies with flags (ensigns). The bravest men would carry heavy branches to the wooden gates of the city to set them on fire (Judges 9:48,49; Psalms 74:5). With the Temple lying in smoldering ruins the **true worship** designed to take place there was **interrupted**.

- 7) When Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the Temple built by Solomon, what did he do to some of the vessels formerly used in the worship of God? 2Kings 25:13-15,20; Daniel 1:1,2.

**Note:** After Nebuchadnezzar defiled the Temple, he took some of the vessels of the temple and brought them into the house of his god, to be used in false worship. In like manner, when Satan takes control of our Body Temple, he defiles it, then seizes some (or all) its organs to be used in **his worship**. Many use their lungs as a place to burn the incense of nicotine to Satan. Others pour the libation (drink offering) of alcohol into their stomach vessel and liver. Others use their musical talents, writing abilities and other faculties and skills for **self**. These “vessels” remain under the enemy’s control until redeemed by the power of God.

### God’s Basic Plan for the Temple’s Restoration

- 8) What great military leader did God raise up to overthrow Babylon and rebuild His Temple? Daniel 5:30,31; Daniel 6:28; Isaiah 44:28

**Note:** God never intends that His Temple shall remain in ruins. He always makes plans for its restoration. He sent Cyrus to overthrow Belshazzar and the kingdom of Babylon. Cyrus the Persian was the general in the army of Darius the Median. After Darius; short reign of two years, Cyrus ascended to the throne Daniel 6:28; Daniel 10:1. It was Cyrus to whom God had appointed to open the two-leaved gates of Babylon Isaiah 45:1-3 and to whom the command was given to re-build Jerusalem and lay the foundation of the Temple. Every Christian who has allowed the enemy to defile his Body Temple is to do the work of Cyrus. They are to liberate their Body Temple from Satan’s control. By an all-out warfare with “self” they are to commence the process of rebuilding and restoring. Just as Cyrus restored the previously captured vessels for the re-building of the Temple, we are to cooperate with God in the work of restoring the various organs of the body for God’s service Ezra 1:7-11; Ezra 5:13-15.

- 9) Years after the Temple at Jerusalem was rebuilt, it fell into a state of disrepair. What did good King Hezekiah order to be done to the decommissioned Temple? 2Chronicles 29:3,15,16

**Note:** The Sanctuary doors ended up broken and “shut”. All manner of “uncleanness” (garbage and debris) had accumulated on the Temple grounds. This made it necessary that the building be **cleansed** and **repaired** by the men assigned to its management. In like manner, the Body Temple which has fallen out of God’s service must be cleansed and repaired. The “filthiness of the flesh” 2Cor. 7:1 is to be purified by stimulating the activity of the organs of elimination. By proper lifestyle changes we can naturally increase the activity of the colon, kidneys, skin and lungs. The work of re-construction that is take place in our tissues can be assisted by getting 8-9 hours of proper rest in a dark quiet place, better nutrition through more fresh fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds and legumes and a systematic program for aerobic and progressive resistance exercise.

10) What was God original and ultimate purpose for His dwelling place? Ex. 40:33-35; 2Chr. 5:13

**Note:** When the Tabernacle built by Moses and the Temple built by Solomon were first completed they were filled with an exceedingly bright, supernatural light. This Heavenly glory was a symbol of God’s wonderful character. Moses asked to see God’s glory and God’s response was to come close to him and **describe His own character** to Moses Ex. 33:18; 34:4-8. When Moses God a clearer view of God’s character he was led directly into deep heartfelt worship. God intends to re-assemble, cleanse and restore each person’s Body Temple so that He can ultimately fill each person with His **Divine character**. He wants our physical health to be sound so that He can make us: “merciful, gracious, longsuffering, abundant in goodness and truth...forgiving”. This spiritual transformation is impossible while we have broken constitutions, clogged blood vessels, diseased organs and clouded minds.