

Sunday, September 4, 2016—I Corinthians 6:19-20: The Temple of the Holy Ghost

### Introduction

- Last week we studied verses 16 through 18 as we worked our way toward the end of chapter 6. This morning, I want to finish up our study of chapter 6 so that we can begin chapter 7 next week.

### I Corinthians 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?**
- On the heels of instructing the Corinthians to “flee fornication” in verse 18; because when one commits fornication they sin against their own body, Paul is now going to explain why that is the case in verse 19.
- Please not once again that verse 19 is comprised of two questions.
- *know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you*—the expression “know you not” indicates that the Corinthians, on the basis of previous instruction, should have known what Paul is about to tell them.
- The expression “is the temple of the Holy Ghost” is a present indicative statement. This means that the body of each member of Christ is in the present the temple of the Holy Ghost.
  - I Corinthians 6:15
- Even these carnal Corinthians were “the temple of the Holy Ghost.”
- How were the Corinthians the “temple of the Holy Ghost?” Because of the “Holy Ghost which is in you.” The Holy Ghost was in the Corinthian saints thereby making their bodies His temple.
- The Corinthians collectively (“ye”) were to know that their individual bodies (“your body”) are the temple of the Holy Ghost on account of the fact that Holy Ghost was in them individually (“in you”).
- The context of chapter 6 is dealing with how a man should use his own body as member of Christ’s body.
  - Verse 13—“. . . the body is for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.”
  - Verse 15—“. . . your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ (i.e., each believer’s body) and make them the members of an harlot?”

- Verse 16—“. . . know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot (with his body) is one body?”
- Verse 18—“. . . but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.”
- Why does fornication constitute a sin against one’s own body? Because your body is the temple of God the Holy Spirit. God the Holy Spirit indwells and resides with your body. This is the only way one could take the members of Christ and join them to an harlot.
- Romans 8:9-11—the Spirit of God dwells in each individual member of the body of Christ.
- *which ye have of God*—the verb “ye have” is a present active indicative statement. The Corinthians have the Holy Ghost in them because God the Father put Him there. God did this for them on the basis of the work of his Son the Lord Jesus Christ. This reality was not “of the Corinthians” if they met the conditions.
- *and ye are not your own*—the result of having the Holy Ghost in them is that the Corinthians are (present indicative) no longer their own. As we will see in the next verse their bodies belong to God now.

### **I Corinthians 6:20**

- **For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.**
- *For ye are bought with a price*—the Lord Jesus Christ paid the necessary price to purchase the Corinthians. The Corinthians received what Christ did in their behalf.
  - Romans 3:24-25
  - Ephesians 1:7
- *therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's*—on the basis of the fact that we have been “bought with a price” we should seek to glorify God in our bodies. Our bodies belong to God now. The verb “are” is once again a present indicative.
  - Romans 6:11-13
  - Romans 12:1-2
- I Corinthians 6:20—how are you going to use your body to glorify God? The reality is that we serve the Lord through the use of our bodies.
  - I Thessalonians 4:4

- Practically, how does one glorify God in their body? I believe it comes back to the decision making model we encounter back in I Corinthians 6:12. As believers we need to get past the question of is something “lawful” or permissible and deal with the following questions instead:
  - Is it expedient i.e., is it profitable?
  - Does it edify (I Cor. 10:23)?
  - Am I allowing it to have power over me?