

Honoring God with Our Bodies

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

Introduction:

Have you ever lived in a mobile home?

We grew up just outside of Mounds Oklahoma. I was 4 years old when we bought this land that had a creek and some trees on it and I remember mom and dad talking about when our house would show up.

I didn't know if they were going to mail it or build it or what. But the next time we drove out to our new land...there it was. One day it wasn't there and the next day, it was there just like it fell out of the sky.

I can still remember asking dad why it had car tires under it. He explained to me that they pulled it out to our land like you might pull a wagon. It was a mobile home.

Thinking about the idea that our house had wheels under it was cool at first. Until I began to wonder if during the night the parking break would fail and we would go rolling off into the night, or someone might drive off with us.

Dad set out to make it look nice. He put skirting around the under-framing and mom planted flowers. We picked up rocks out of the yard for years it seemed and mowed the grass and built fences. We got to know the neighborhood and generally settled in.

But later some people moved in next door and they were really nice, but they treated their property like a salvage yard, I thought it was cool but mom and dad said we got rats because of all the piled up junk.

Later an oil company came in and drilled for oil on our property and ended up spraying all of our trees with oil. The great thing about a mobile home is if you don't like where your living you can hook onto to it and move it to a different location.

Transitional Statement:

I was asked some time back to do a lesson on the importance of our bodies and the way we take care of them.

Our bodies are our physical homes where we live, they are very important to us, and God. God wants us to keep our bodies pure, He wants us to take care of them, He wants them in the right neighborhoods, humble, and dedicated to Him. Church, because with our bodies we either honor God ...or dishonor Him. In a way our bodies are mobile homes, we can move them when the neighborhood gets rough.

Lesson:

I. First, in honoring God with our bodies, we must consider what our bodies are

- A. Our bodies represent God's creation...Gen 1:26
 - 1. God formed both male and female bodies
 - 2. God breathed into them the breath of life...Gen 2:7
 - 3. And the text says that He was pleased with what He created...Gen 1:31
- B. But in our bodies God has placed the soul.
 - 1. Hence Paul saying "*we have this treasure in earthen vessels...*" 2 Cor 4:7
 - 2. We might think of the body as a tent for the soul.
- C. Some have thought that what we do in a physical sense doesn't really matter because it is the inner spiritual soul that God looks at.
- D. But God reminds us that our bodies are important.
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 6:15 "*Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? ...*"
 - 2. The very temple of God. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
 - a. And the temple was a sacred place because it was the dwelling place of God.
 - b. And honoring the house of God seems to be a continual theme throughout scriptures.

II. In thinking about honoring God with our bodies first we must keep them pure and holy

- A. Romans 12:1 "*Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*"
 - 1. Our bodies are to be given as a sacrifice
 - a. And Holy and Acceptable to God
 - b. Given to His direction and for His purposes
 - 2. 1 Thessalonians 4:4 "*...know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,*"
 - 3. Not for the meeting all of our wants and desires.

B. Holy means separate and set apart.

1. Sanctified come to mind here.
2. i.e. special
3. God wants us to keep our bodies pure

C. He wants us to turn aside from fleshly desires.

1. He doesn't want us engaged in sexual misconduct.

- a. Fornication....sex outside of marriage
- b. Adultery or even lust.....Matthew 5:28
- c. Homosexuality Romans 1:24
- c. Pornography

- Internet
- Magazines
- Television

2. He doesn't even want us in the neighborhood of sexual immorality Proverbs 7

D. Galatians 5:16 says "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh."

1. That is we should let our fleshly steps be guided by the Spirit.
2. Keeping in step with Him Gal 5:25 NIV

E. Remembering that God has provided a way of escaping every sin

1 Corinthians 10:13

"No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it."

III. We also must honor God with our bodies by taking care of them

A. Have you ever given something special to someone who didn't take care of it?

B. How must God feel when we harm our bodies by:

1. Drugs
2. Alcohol
3. Tobacco
4. Food
5. Worry

C. What about how we dress our bodies.

1. Mini skirts
2. Tight clothes
3. Baggy clothes
4. See through clothes
5. Suggestive clothes

- a. Low cut shirts...tank tops
- b. Wording or even tiger paws placed on our back porches to draw the eyes in.

D. 1 Timothy 2:9 *“Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments,”*

1. Applies to men also.
2. Modesty puts the focus on God

- a. Immodesty puts the focus on self.

E. 1 Thessalonians 5:22 say to “abstain from every form of evil.”

F. You know we keep the church building clean for Sunday knowing that Lord will be there and also we might even have some guests.

1. But what about keeping our bodies away from sin knowing it’s the very dwelling place of the Almighty God.

VI. Then, we honor God with our bodies by their location

A. You have surely heard what makes real estate valuable?

1. Location, location, location

B. Where we allow ourselves to be found is very important to God as well

1. Can you imagine the look on God’s face seeing one of His children in a bar
2. Night club
3. A drug house
4. Or in some back room engaged in sexual immorality

C. God wants us located in spiritual things

1. He wants us located at acts of service
2. Found at someone’s side caring for them
3. He wants to find us in the assembly of the saints ...Praising His Name
4. He wants us to be found engaged in Encouragement
5. He wants to find us telling others about Him

D. Basically our bodies should be in a location that promotes His will

V. We also honor God with our bodies by their position

- A. By position here we are talking about humility as opposed to someone who stands tall and puffed up in thought with lofty ideas about their status.
- B. God calls us to be a people of humility
 - 1. Not seeing or thinking ourselves, in anyway, better than another.
 - 2. Not looking down our noses at others.
 - 3. 1 Peter 5:6 *“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,”*
- C. The humble heart sees value in others
- D. The humble heart is a heart that has embraced surrender to God
- E. The humble heart will stop at nothing than considering others more important than self.

VI. Finally we honor God with our bodies by their consecration and dedication to service.

- A. Exodus 29:20 *“You shall slaughter the ram, and take some of its blood and put it on the lobe of Aaron's right ear and on the lobes of his sons' right ears and on the thumbs of their right hands and on the big toes of their right feet, and sprinkle the rest of the blood around on the altar.”*
- B. Here we see two things:
 - 1. First is consecration. By this act the priests were committing themselves to purity. Making a conscience decision to stay away from sinful situations.
 - 2. Also here is the idea of dedication of ears to listen to God, their hands to do His will and their feet to walk in His ways.
 - 3. Romans 12:2 *“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

Conclusion:

Has the use of your body pleased God?

Would he find anything unpleasing in us?

1 Corinthians 9:27

27 but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified

Our bodies house the Lord and our bodies are mobile just like a mobile home. Where is your house?