

# God's Temple

**Introduction.** There is no other way to say it: If we are to be the dwelling place of God, the temple of the Holy Spirit, under God's ownership and built to house His glory, we have to flee immorality (1 Corinthians 6:18-20). Our bodies cannot be used to do wrong and also house the glory of God. Sanctity demands a full separation from this sin.

The word "fugitive" is derived from the Old French word for "flee." A fugitive runs from the law. He gets as far away and stays as far away from his captors as possible. So too must we when it comes to immorality. We cannot live near it and accept it, but do everything possible to allude it. How can we remain sanctified for our God?

## ***I. Flee Its Arguments***

- A. The Corinthians pretended to have scriptural justification for living as they wanted. Greek philosophy considered everything physical, including the body, to be evil and therefore of no value. What was done with the body did not matter.
- B. Paul quoted what may have been common Corinthian sayings in that liberated society, and then borrowed and played off them to answer their arguments:
  - 1. "All things are lawful unto me" (v. 12).
    - a) The price for committing some sins is terribly high, and terribly unprofitable. Sin always brings loss (Proverbs 5:20-23).
    - b) Sexual immorality has broken more marriages, shattered more homes, caused more heartache, and destroyed more lives than anything else.
    - c) Man is more than an animal. He possesses the ability to control himself and not engage in this destructive sin (Proverbs 25:28; 2 Peter 1:6).
  - 2. "Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats" (v. 13).
    - a) This was a Greek way of arguing that the body was for intimacy and intimacy for the body. To them, their relationship was purely biological.
    - b) The body is an instrument of the Lord and it is only as God instructs us that we can live the kind of life for which we were meant (Psalm 2:11).
    - c) Furthermore, God has no permanent plans for the stomach, but the body will be transformed and glorified (15:44, 51; cp. Philippians 3:21).

## ***II. Flee Its Promotion***

- A. In Colossians 3:5, the apostle admonished his readers to "mortify" or completely separate themselves from the deeds of the old life. His catalog of sins is a grim one, and all of the sins, with the possible exception of the last, have to do with sexual immorality.
- B. Solomon, in speaking to his son about the danger of immorality in Proverbs 7, told him to flee in three ways:
  - 1. Flee personal ignorance (vv. 1-5).
  - 2. Flee immoral people (vv. 6-15).
  - 3. Flee compromising environments (vv. 16-20).

## ***III. Flee Its Consequences***

- A. The pain inflicted on Jesus (Hebrews 6:1-6; 1 Peter 1:14-19).
- B. The grief leveled against yourself (Psalm 32:3-4; 38:4-5).

- C. The negative effect on everyone (2 Samuel 12:10-14; cp. 13:28-29 [Amnon]; 18:14-15 [Absalom]; 1 Kings 2:23-25 [Adonijah]).

**Conclusion.** We plead with everyone not to fall into these traps because the consequences may never go away. In the end, the choice to be physically and mentally pure is less about what I want for myself, and more about who I am for Him — His dwelling place or temple on this earth (vv. 18-20).

We glorify (exalt, lift up) God in our body by pure and holy conduct. We put off the unfruitful works of darkness and we put on the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-24). We glorify God in our bodies by our speech, cleansing our tongue from filthy, crude, or blasphemous words, and having our speech seasoned with salt. We glorify God in our bodies by the way we dress. Since the body is the “dwelling place” of the Spirit, we should not shamelessly expose our bodies to the public gaze of men or women. And, we glorify God in our body by being a light to others, by good deeds showing what the Spirit will produce in men.

Any sin in my body causes a stain on God’s reputation, the gospel, and the church. For those who have fallen to immoral sin, take heart in the words from our text (1 Corinthians 6:11). If we repent and say, “never again,” and stand by the commitment to be holy to the Lord, He will forgive us and restore us to purity.

I am deeply indebted to Kris Emerson for the use of his material