

It May Be Your Life, But It Is Still God's Temple!

Introduction:

- I. We live in a rebellious world today. Many young people have a rebellious attitude, but so do many adults. In our schools, on our jobs and even throughout our governmental system we see acts of rebellion all the time. And this is so, not only in regard to recognizing the authority of those in high places in our world, but also in regard to recognizing the authority of God. We live in a world dominated by what I call the "Pharaoh Mentality" which says, "*Who is the Lord that I should obey His voice.*" More and more people today scoff at the notion of serving God. More and more people today believe that there is no higher authority than man and that God should not even be considered. This explains why even in some mainstream denominations we see things like votes on the morality of homosexuality. It is not does God want us to accept homosexuality as a valid lifestyle, but rather "what is it that we want." That's become the prevalent way of thinking today, even in the religious world.
- II. Sometimes I see this sort of attitude among my brethren. I see people in the church who are blood bought children of God manifesting the kind of rebellious thinking that says, "This is my life and I can do what I please." I hope that there are not any in this audience that feel that way, but if there is, I just want to remind you of something: *If may be your life, but it is still God's temple!* This is going to be our subject for this lesson.

Lesson:

I. Your Body Is the Temple of God (1 Cor. 6:19-20).

Notice Paul says that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. That means it belongs to God. You have been bought with a price and now you are the property of God. And please know that what you do with your body, since it really doesn't belong to you anyway, is important. You see, God has plans for you and your body (**1 Cor. 6:13-14; 1 Cor. 15:42-44**). So then, what you do with your body is important (**Rom. 6:12-13**). You must use your body as an instrument of righteousness. You must use your body to do good and not evil. You must use your body to glorify God, not satisfy self. Why? Because it may be your life, but it is still God's temple.

II. Don't Take God Where He Doesn't Want To Go!

A. God doesn't want to go clubbing.

Some people think that life is fun and games and that the weekend is made for carnal celebrations. "Let's go out to the club tonight." "Let's go dancing tonight." "Let's go to the party tonight." "We have worked real hard this week and so we deserve some fun." "Let's go party." Listen to me: God doesn't want to go. He's not in to the kind of things that go on in those places. God doesn't want to be in a smoked filled room with scantily clothed people talking about carnal things. And once more when you stop and remember who and what you are, you shouldn't want to go

those places either. Paul once said, *"Do not be deceived: Bad company ruins good morals"* (**1 Cor 15:33**).

Can you not see there are some place where Christians just don't belong. Christians don't belong in places of sin and dens of iniquity (**2 Cor. 6:14-7:1**). Next time you consider going out to some place that is not what it ought to be morally speaking, remember, it's your life but it is still God's temple. God doesn't want to go to those places and if you go He is going to dismiss His presence from your life.

B. God doesn't want to go to worship in someone else's house.

The church is the house of God (**1 Tim. 3:15; Heb. 3:4-6**). Listen God wants to be worshipped in His own house, not someone else's. There are some in the church of Christ now who thinks they can worship God in someone's else's house. Max Lacado, a famous writer in the religious world and a preacher in the church of Christ, advocates full-fledge fellowship with denominational churches. He once participated in a service with the Roman Catholics at St. John Neumann Church in San Antonio, TX, and called the priest "father." Listen to me: the Catholic Church is not God's house, it's the Pope's house. On another occasion Lacado swapped pulpits with the preacher for the Trinity Baptist Church in San Antonio and called it *"a statement of acceptance."* But the Baptist church is not God's house, it's John Smyth's house. How do I know? Because John Smyth built the Baptist church and he did so 1700 years after God built His.

We need to get away from this ecumenical movement and philosophy that advocates unity at all cost. Some churches are moving in that direction, but they are moving without God. The only kind of unity that is pleasing to God is that which is based upon the scriptures (**Eph. 4:1-3**). As Christians we should not be extending fellowship to those who are not members of the church. We should be not going to denominational services as if we are all a part of the same spiritual house. God only has one house and that's where He wants to be worshipped. If you go to someone else's house to worship God, please be advised that you are going alone. God's not going.

III. Don't Do Things That God Doesn't Want To Do!

A. God doesn't want you to use His temple to commit fornication.

In **1 Thess. 4:3** Paul said, *"For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication."* In **1 Cor. 6:18** Paul said, *"Flee fornication,"* and in ver. 9 of the same chapter we learn that fornicators will not inherit the kingdom of God. In **Rom. 1:29** fornication is listed as being unrighteousness, and in **1 Cor. 7:2** we are told to avoid fornication. Why? Because fornication is an immoral act that constitutes sin against the God of heaven.

Now, what is fornication? Fornication is a general term that refers to any kind of sexual immorality, i.e., any kind of sexual relations outside the marriage relationship. It includes premarital sex, extramarital sex and any other kind of sex that is outside of God's divine will including homosexuality, bestiality and pedophilia. But regardless of the form or fashion of the fornication, God doesn't want any association with it because it is sinful in nature, an abomination to God and an abuse of the body (**1Cor. 6:12-19**).

The brethren at Corinth thought that fornication with a non-moral issue. So, to them fornication as an act of idolatry was wrong, but fornication, if it was just to fulfill the natural bodily desires like eating meat, was morally neutral. Now, that may sound ludicrous to us, but there are still many who feel like that in our society today. Listen to these comments by actress Amy Steel in regard to a role she was playing, where she portrayed a 23 year old girl. She wanted her role to have more love (sex) and less honor.

"Sex is not a moral issue with young women today. My generation is more open and easy going. We accept more challenges including sex without making it a big deal. In today's society of easy divorce, people are living together while using contraceptives. My generation moves faster and isn't as judgmental on morality. Virginity isn't important. It is not valued or even discussed. Sharon, the girl I play, is supposed to have an incredible sex life, but is always masked or confused with love.≅ It wouldn't occur to the writers that a good girl would be interested in sex for sex itself..."

There are too many in the church who live as if they agree with the sentiments of Amy Steel. Listen! When it comes to fornication, you must flee. "Oh but it is my life," someone says. Yes, but it is still God's temple and when you choose to fornicate you can rest assured that you are leaving God behind because God doesn't want to dwell in a temple of fornication.

B. God doesn't want you to use His temple to drink alcohol.

Most people do not classify alcohol as a drug. In fact, in many homes where other drugs would quickly be condemned, you will find alcohol in the house. After all, if you are of age, alcohol is legal. And advertisers make it seem so wonderful, don't they? But listen to me: it is all a scam! There isn't anything good about the consumption of alcohol. Alcohol is a drug, and it is a very dangerous drug that kills. Clearly America has a drinking problem. Society may have embraced it, but God abhors it (**Prov. 23:29-35; 1 Cor. 6:10; Eph. 5:18**). And for anyone who might argue that drunkenness is condemned, but social drinking is alright, know this: the Greek word Paul uses is **METHUSKO** (meth-oos'-ko) and Vine tells us that it means, not only the state of drunkenness, but the *process of growing drunk*. And know this if you are a Christian, God doesn't want to be around, not only when you are drunk, but when you are in the process of getting drunk.

C. God doesn't want you to use His temple to smoke tobacco.

Preachers don't deal with this very often do we. Smoking is not something that Christians should want to engage in, and it is definitely not something God wants to be around. First, it is to purposely destroy the temple of God. We now have too much scientific and medical information to deny that tobacco kills. It's bad for the body and our bodies are the temple of God. But even if that were not the case, smoking cigarettes destroys one's influence for Christ (e.g. of smoking while trying to conduct a Bible study).

IV. Don't Say Things That God Doesn't Want To Say!

Remember that wherever you go, God is with you for your body is God's temple. Thus, we ought to be careful, not only in regard to where we go and what we do, but also what we say (**Eph. 4:29; James 3:6-10**).

- A. God doesn't want you to use His temple gossip.**
- B. God doesn't want you to use His temple to curse.**
- C. God doesn't want you to use His temple to speak unkindly.**

Conclusion:

Yes, it is your life, but remember it is still God's temple. As a Christian you have been bought with a price and now you belong to God. God is with you wherever you go and in whatever you do, not in person, but in presence. This is a very comforting thought. We are never alone because as Paul said in Eph. 2:22, we are a habitation of God. But please be advised that when you decide to use your body as an instrument of sin, God is going to leave the premises. If you do right, God is in the house! But when you purposely sin, God has left the building. You don't want that! So remember, let's use our bodies as instruments of righteousness. After all, it may be our life, but it's still God's temple.