

lives. We are to be under Christ's control. If we want the fruit of the Spirit to grow in us, then we must be in Christ as seen in John 15:4-5. In order to be in Christ we must first put on Christ in baptism (Gal. 3:27). Then we must love Him, imitate Him and most of all let Christ dwell within us at all times. As Christians we are to be holy. For God to dwell within us we must be holy in our minds and in our bodies; that is set apart for God's own purpose as seen in **I Peter 1:13-16**: *"Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because if it is written, 'Be holy for I am holy'".* We have all heard the saying, "use it or lose it". This saying fits our spiritual lives today. When we use our bodies for the Lord we will grow in spirit and in truth. We will have the confidence

that we need that the Lord is with us all the days of our lives. We can better serve the Lord with our bodies and our minds as we carry out the Lord's work. But when we let our spiritual life go into ruin, we can lose that relationship with our Lord and Savior and our last state will be worse than the first state of being lost. **II Peter 2:20-22**: *"For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: 'A dog returns to his own vomit,' and , 'a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.'"* Jesus himself said: *"Be holy for I am holy"*. That is why as Christians our bodies are the temple of the Lord.

By Bill Davis

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# Faithful Sayings

## Olsen Park Church of Christ

4700 Andrews Avenue Amarillo, Texas 79106  
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Vol. IX, No. 36

September 23, 2007

### Services

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.  
10:20 a.m.  
6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

### Elders:

Ken Ford  
Charles Kelley  
Pat Ledbetter

### Deacons:

Dean Bowers  
Eddie Cook  
Bill Davis  
Pat Goguen  
Neil Ledbetter  
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## The Body, Temple of the Lord

All of us today see ads in which a person can go to the gym and work out in order to have that lean look. We see men and women who make it a personal goal to look the very best they can. They will take vitamins and supplements to cut out as much fat as possible. We buy all kinds of cosmetics to have that young look. We hear and read about those who will get different types of surgery to get rid of the excess fat on their bodies. You know all these work outs, makeup, and surgery are fine and dandy as long as they are not taken to the extreme. However, it seems there are those who will go to the extremes to worship their body as if their body is a temple of worship. This is nothing new. The Greeks and the Romans did these very same acts back in the days of the apostle Paul. Back in the days of Paul there was a lot of sexual immorality among the Greeks and Romans; they worshiped the body and often used their bodies for fornication. But as Christians, we know that our bodies are the temple of the Lord. One may ask, "how can my body be the temple of the Lord?" Let's first consider the significance that statement would have had to its original readers. In both the old and new testaments a temple was where the Jews went to worship God by praying, singing, reading the Law and offering sacrifices to God. Indeed, the temple which Solomon had been instructed in building was magnificent.

In I Kings 6-7, we read of the temple which Solomon had built for God. As we read about this temple, we will see all the costly material the Israelites used to make this temple very attractive to worship in. Some of the material used was bronze, gold, silver, costly wood and stones to add to the wonder of this temple to God. Much care went into making this temple which at that time was one of the wonders in its day. In **I Corinthians 6:19-20** we read, *“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”*

Now we all know that God does not dwell in temples made with our hands; God dwells in Heaven. So how can a Christian’s body be the temple of God? As Christians, when we accepted God’s Son as our Lord and Savior in baptism and repented from our former ways we became part of God’s family through His Son. We received the forgiveness of our sins (Acts 2:38) and were raised to walk in newness of life (Rom 6:4). Now if we are called Christians, which

means Christ-like, we will put on Christ with a new heart and put away our old sinful ways. (Rom 6:3-23). As Christians we will put on Christ in our thinking. Our desires will be Christ-like and the attitude in our minds will be like God in true righteousness and holiness as seen in **Ephesians 4:22-24**: *“that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.”* As Christians, we should live a life that is undefiled, holy and blameless before God. Our lives should be free from filth and the evil in this world. You see, as Christians our bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit; in other words, the Spirit of God dwells within us. (I Cor. 6:19; Rom 8:5-17). Romans 8:5 tells us, *“For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.”* As Christians, we are to set our minds on things above (Col. 3:2) and we are to let the word of Christ dwell in us richly

We are to sanctify the Lord God in our hearts (**I Peter 3:15**) and like David, we are to seek God with our whole heart, continually hiding His word in our hearts that we might not sin against Him (**Psalm 119:10-11**). We are to guard our hearts, for **Proverbs 4:23** instructs us to *“Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.”* But when a Christian goes back into the world after he has been cleansed by the blood of Christ, basically he is defiling the temple of God all over again. How can a Christian defile his body? Well, just think about it. God is holy and in Him there is no sin. Think about it, when a Christian goes back into the world he plays the prostitute with the world with his heart, mind and body. He becomes part of the world in evil ways such as bad language, drinking, adultery, and ungodly ways that he knows God will not approve of. He has forgotten the teaching of I Corinthians 6:18-20 and no longer glorifies God in his body.

Christians are free to be all that they can be for God and God only, but not free from God. It hurts God when we choose the world over Him because it shows that we prefer following our own desires instead of worshiping Him in spirit and truth. As Christians, our bodies belong to God. Many

people today say they have the right to do whatever they want to do. When they think this they think of freedom, but actually they are really enslaving themselves to their own selfish desires and sin all over again. As a Christian one may ask, “How can I use my body as the temple of God in my daily life?” **Galatians 5: 19-26** tells us: *“Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.”*

The fruit of the Spirit will be produced in our lives as Christians when we seek after the things of the Spirit; spending time with God in prayer, in study and meditation of His Word, and then living it in our daily