

## **BODY TEMPLE**

It has always intrigued me that God designed the Christian's body to be His temple during the church age. The concept of a mobile human "naos" or "inner shrine" or "temple sanctuary" fascinates me.

The Greeks had two Greek words for temple.

- hieron was the temple worship complex
- naos was the inner shrine or the place of deity dwelling.

For the Hebrews, the naos was the Holy of Holies, where the high priest went once a year to make atonement (Heb.9:1-15) [shadow Christology]. For the Greeks, the naos was the place where the idol of the temple dwelt.

"Who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple (ton naos) of God, displaying himself as being God." (2 Thess.2:4) [Antichrist] (Matt.24:15; Dan.9:27)

Paul opened our lesson text with a special rhetorical question he used to point to the neglect of a basic doctrine:

**"Do you not know** (ouk oida / perf.a.ind.2pl) **that** (hoti)"

Paul expects a positive response **"Of course you know!"** Paul used this rhetorical phrase six times in chapter six (1 Cor.6:2, 3, 9, **15, 16 and 19**).

He used it three times in our lesson text. We will use them for our homiletical study outline:

**"Do you not know that..."**

- 1 Cor.6:15 The Believer's body is a member of body of Christ (1 Cor.12:13).
- 1 Cor.6:16-18 The Believer's body is joined (kollao) [to cleave] to the Lord (Gal.3:27-28; Gen.2:24; Eph.5).
- 1 Cor.6:19-20 The Believer's body is the temple of Holy Spirit (John 7:38-39; 14:16-17; Rom.8:11).

<b>This lesson will study five aspects of the Christian's body becoming the Temple of the Holy Spirit.</b>
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### **1. The unbeliever's body is an unoccupied building even if he goes to church and believes in God.**

"You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder." (James 2:19; Matt.12:43-45) [demon possession]

"Then it says (demon), 'I will return to my house from which I came; and when it comes, it finds it unoccupied (scholazo), swept, and put in order.'" (Matt.12:44)

While Paul was in Athens, a city full of idols and temples (Acts 17:16), he told them that "God does not live in temples built by hands." (Acts 17:24; Rom.8:8; Jude 19)

### **2. Paul explained to the Athenians that the solution was the gospel of Jesus Christ.**

"Because He (God) has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man (Jesus Christ) whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead." (Acts 17:31)

It was Jesus who connected His death and resurrection with the concept of the body temple in John 2:19-21. “Destroy this temple (naos), and in three days I will raise it up.” (Jn.2:19) “But He was speaking of the temple (naos) of His body.” (Jn.2:21)

### 3. **At the moment of salvation, the church age believer’s body becomes occupied by the indwelling Holy Spirit.**

Every church age believer receives the indwelling of the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation (Gal.3:1-5).

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is 1 of 8 works of the Holy Spirit in the grace package of 50 things received at the moment of salvation.

It is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that makes the believer’s body the temple (naos) (1 Cor.6:19-20).

Paul taught that every church age believer was the temple of the living God in the world.

“Or what agreement has the temple (naos) of God with idols? For we are the temple (naos) of God; just as God said, **‘I will dwell in them and walk among them.’** (2 Cor.6:16) [Note the rhetorical question] (Ex.29:45; Ezek.37:27)

### 4. **Once the Holy Spirit takes up residence inside the church age believer’s body, his body becomes a mobile temple for spiritual worship and priesthood service.**

“You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” (1 Pet.2:5)

“Do you not know that you a temple (naos) of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? (1 Cor.3:16; Eph.2:21)

“I urge you therefore; 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**.” (Rom.12:1)

### 5. **Paul closed our lesson text with a strong command:**

“**Therefore** (ede) [intensive particle shorten to de + imperative indicating that the following point should now be clear] **glorify** (doxazo / **a.a.impv.2pl**) **God in your body** (to soma).” (1 Cor.6:20b)

**The CAB (church age body) is God’s vehicle for spiritual worship and priesthood service in the world.**

“Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.” (Heb.13:15)

Paul commands believers to “flee (pheugo / **p.a.impv.2pl**) fornication (**ten porneia**).” Then he tells us why –

“Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man (ho porneuo / p.a.ptc nsm) sins against his own body.” (1 Cor.6:18)

The Christian’s body is the naos temple of God and not of the world. It is not to be used as place of pagan sexual activities. **Sex is for marriage!**

“But because of immoralities (**tas porneia**), let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.” (1 Cor.7:2)