

Men's Wednesday Night Study

January 14, 2009

Gods Building

Study No.8

I know with the beginning of a New Year there will be a lot of people who are starting out with New Year resolutions for 2009. The issue with resolutions is that each will not be long lived. We will forget what was planned, and continue with our old habits. We will forget our plan, we will again find ourselves making another resolution for 2010. We must remember that with the building of our body our souls (our Christian walk) must not be forgotten, like our bodies. We must work on our temple, and treat it with care. We often neglect our health. We maintain our homes in better condition than our bodies. Let us look at what the Bible talks about bodies.

Gen 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Gen 1:27 So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

The thing to understand here is that God created man in His own image. It was stated in Genesis 1 verse 31 that this was very good. In a simple way, we were made perfect, and we have God's approval. **Gen 1:31 a.** "And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, *it was* very good."

Let us discuss some commonly used statements about our physical being. Many times we here people say, well, God made me this way, If God wants me to be thin, he will change me. I had an uncle who thought that way. He felt that there was nothing he had to do on his part. Yet when he began to fall ill because of his weight he prayed to God to help him. We often fail to see the damage we are causing ourselves, until it is too late. We must see ourselves together in Christ, one in another, not one single being.

1Co 3:16 You know that you are God's sanctuary and that God's Spirit lives in you, don't you?

1Co 6:19 You know that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have received from God, don't you? You do not belong to yourselves,

1Co 6:20 because you were bought for a price. Therefore, glorify God with your bodies.

This verse dealt with the issue of sexual fornication. It also reminds us that we are to treat our bodies as a sanctuary.

I can honestly say that I really never paid attention to the fact that my body is temple for the Holy Spirit prior to becoming a Christian. I know that now, I have felt the battle between the Spirit and the flesh. Just because I consider myself a new creation does not mean that the temptation is not there. I must focus continually on God.

Your body is a temple (*to so ma humo n naos estin*). A sanctuary as in **1Co 3:16** which see. Our spirits dwell in our bodies and the Holy Spirit dwells in our spirits. Some of the Gnostics split hairs between the sins of the body and fellowship with God in the spirit. Paul will have none of this subterfuge. One's body is the very shrine for the Holy Spirit. In Corinth was the temple to Aphrodite in which fornication was regarded as consecration instead of desecration. Prostitutes were there as priestesses of Aphrodite, to help men worship the goddess by fornication.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another"

Prov. 27:17

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Ye are not your own (*ouk este heauto*□*n*). Predicate genitive. You do not belong to yourselves, even if you could commit fornication without personal contamination or self-violation. Christianity makes unchastity dishonour in both sexes. There is no double standard of morality. Paul's plea here is primarily to men to be clean as members of Christ's body.

Luk 9:23 Then he said to all of them, "If anyone wants to come with me, he must deny himself, pick up his cross every day, and follow me continually.

2Co 6:16 What agreement can a temple of God make with idols? For we are the temple of the living God, just as God said: "I will live and walk among them. I will be their God, and they will be my people."

2Co 6:17 Therefore, "Get away from them and separate yourselves from them," declares the Lord, "and don't touch anything unclean. Then I will welcome you.

2Co 6:18 I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters," declares the Lord Almighty.

Eph 2:19 That is why you are no longer strangers and foreigners but fellow citizens with the saints and members of God's household,

Eph 2:20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone.

Eph 2:21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises into a holy sanctuary in the Lord.

Eph 2:22 You, too, are being built in him along with the others into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

1Pe 2:1 Therefore, rid yourselves of every kind of evil and deception, hypocrisy, jealousy, and every kind of slander.

1Pe 2:2 Like newborn babies, thirst for the pure milk of the word so that by it you may grow in your salvation.

1Pe 2:3 Surely you have tasted that the Lord is good!

1Pe 2:4 As you come to him, the living stone who was rejected by people but was chosen and precious in God's sight,

1Pe 2:5 you, too, as living stones, are building yourselves up into a spiritual house and a holy priesthood, so that you may offer spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1Pe 2:6 This is why it says in Scripture: "Look! I am laying a chosen and precious cornerstone in Zion. The one who believes in him will never be ashamed."

1Pe 2:7 Therefore he is precious to you who believe, but to those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,

1Pe 2:8 a stone they stumble over and a rock they trip on." They keep on stumbling because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

1Pe 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people to be his very own and to proclaim the wonderful deeds of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

1Pe 2:10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God. Once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

We are much more than average people, we are special, paid for by the blood of the one true God, who came to us because we were not able to save ourselves. Let us be kind to ourselves, focus on Gods temple. We are the chosen and the precious.

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Discussion: We fix our vehicles when they start to make a funny sound, or when it breaks down. How more important are we as God's own creation?

Something to think about:

Pro 27:1 Boast not thyself of tomorrow; For thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

“As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another”
Prov. 27:17