



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Use Your Body to Give God Glory!

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - ¹⁹ *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?* ²⁰ *For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

What did Paul mean when he said that our bodies belong to God? Many people say they have the right to do whatever they want with their own bodies. Although they think this is freedom, they are really enslaved by their own desires. No one can boast about his/her past, for the grace of God brings salvation. The benefits of Calvary provide the opportunity for all to have the Holy Ghost within, making it possible to glorify God in body and spirit. The fact is, we are all sinners with a past history of willful disobedience toward God. *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23). None of us is righteous in ourselves. We need the presence of Jesus Christ in our lives to enable us to live without sin.

As our bodies are the **"temple of the Holy Ghost,"** so also the local church and saints of God is the "temple of God." Just as the Jews' Temple in Jerusalem was not to be defiled, the church is not to be spoiled and ruined by divisions, controversy, or other sins as its members come together to worship God. The power and penalty of sin died with Christ on the cross. Our **"old man,"** our sinful nature, died once and for all, so we are freed from its power. The **"body of sin"** is not the human body but our rebellious sin-loving nature inherited from Adam. Though we often willingly cooperate with our sinful nature, it is not us but the sin in us that is evil. And it is the power of sin at work in our life that is defeated. Through faith in Christ, we stand acquitted, **"not guilty"** before God. Therefore, we no longer need to live under sin's power. God does not take us out of the world or make us robots—we will still feel like sinning, and sometimes we will sin. **The difference is that before we were saved, we were slaves to our sinful nature, but now we can choose to live for Christ.**

We that are saved, the Holy Ghost lives inside us. Therefore, we no longer own our bodies. That we have been "brought with a price" refers to slaves purchased at auction. Christ's death freed us from sin, but also obligates us to His service. **If you live in a building owned by someone else, you try not to violate the building's rules.** Because your body belongs to God, you must not violate His standards for living.

Though you know Christ, you may still be trying to make yourself good enough for God. But rules and rituals have never cleansed people's hearts. By Jesus' blood alone (1) our consciences are cleared, (2) we are freed from death's sting and can live to serve God, and (3) we are freed from sin's power. If you are carrying a load of guilt because you are finding that you can't be good enough for God, take another look at Jesus' death and what it means for you.

We are united with God because His Spirit dwells within us. The Holy Spirit baptism links us to the Lord. As Oneness people we can take personal delight in our position of unity with God. We also can make a claim to be one with the Lord by our refusal to conform to worldly lusts. His Spirit dwelling within us creates a place that is fit for Him to dwell. He does not seek to dwell in temples made with man's hands—He prefers human companionship. Therefore, He has placed great value on His people and purchased their salvation at a great cost.

Our redemption was not with silver or gold but with the precious blood of Jesus Christ. We are of inestimable value to God. This fact is remarkable in light of the fact of who we used to be—sinners—and what we used to do—sin. Truly we should praise God for the marvelous work He has done in our lives. **Through the gospel of Jesus Christ we have been washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord.** We have obeyed the gospel through faith, repentance of our former sinful life, water baptism in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and the reception of the Holy Ghost. Truly, we have a new life in Christ.

Our new life has placed us in a new and more glorious position in the body of Christ. We are not our own; we have been purchased with the precious blood of Jesus Christ and our bodies belong to Him. We are His temple, His dwelling place in this world. **But our new position in His body also places a new responsibility on us.** We should desire to keep ourselves pure and clean as an appropriate dwelling place for God.