

1/19/18

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

People argue that what they do with their body is their own business, or that what goes on in the privacy of their home is no one's business. We agree that marriage is an intimate affair.

“Everything is permissible for me”—but not everything is beneficial. “Everything is permissible for me”—but I will not be mastered by anything. “Food for the stomach and the stomach for food—but God will destroy them both.” The body is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, “The two will become one flesh.” But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit. Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually, sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your body. 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Nevertheless, our business is never just our private business. The Christian man or woman understands that Christ has married himself to them—the Church is his beautiful and precious bride. He binds himself together with his Church in a blessed union. Through faith in Jesus, our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Jesus bought us at the price of his innocent suffering and death.

Even unbelievers cannot argue that what they do is their business alone. For God created all people. God reigns over all people. Jesus died for the sins of all people. God wants all people to be saved, to be brought into a loving union with Jesus.

Paul's call to action in the battle against sexual sin makes sense: "Flee from sexual immorality... honor God with your body." My body is meant for service to the Lord. Therefore, in thankful and dedicated response for all that God is to me and all that he has done for me, my outward conduct and my inward thoughts will express love and honor for my Savior Jesus.

Prayer: *Dearest Jesus, remarkably you have chosen to love me and marry yourself to me and your church for time and for eternity. In a world overrun by sexual temptations and sin, keep me faithful to you and make me always a temple worthy of your Holy Spirit, to the glory of your name. Amen.*

(WELS E-Devotion, adapted)

...See you in church.

Keep looking up because the Lord is always looking down – Psalm 121

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