

4. Walking in Freedom and Liberty

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Sub-title: Our Body – Temple of the Holy Spirit

- Today is the fourth Sunday in our 40 Day Campaign
 - 6 consecutive Sunday messages & 6 weekly Small Group meetings
 - 40 days of daily Scripture Declaration & Memorisation (liberty truths)
- All resulting in new levels of freedom & liberty in our lives
 - Freedom from bondages, fears & curses
 - Free to fully serve the Lord & one another (1 Peter 2:16, Gal. 5:13)

Luke 4:17–19 (NKJV) *He (Jesus) was handed the book of ... Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: **18** “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, **to proclaim liberty to the captives** and recovery of sight to the blind, **to set at liberty those who are oppressed**; **to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”***

Last week’s main points:

- a. We must not be conformed to our Culture (What is a Culture?)
- b. God forbids us having other god’s or be involved in idol worship
- c. God tells us to separate ourselves from our culture
- d. He delivers us from our culture & then sends us back as missionaries to our family and friends

1. Present our Bodies to God as a living Sacrifice

- In one of our previous sessions we talked about our mind
- Today we will speak about our body

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV) *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. **2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

- Evidently, God is interested in our bodies
- Presenting our bodies to God as a living sacrifice has to do with giving something up, handing something over, letting go of something
- Once a sacrifice has been offered up, it cannot be reclaimed as our own

- “Present” – to yield, to place at someone’s disposal
 - Presenting our bodies as **a living sacrifice** is an ongoing process, a constant requirement
- a. In Luke 4:18-19, Jesus announced freedom for our entire being, spirit, soul and body
 - b. In his letters to the churches, Apt. Paul teaches us how to get free and how to stay free
 - c. Romans 12:1-2 is part of the modus operandi for attaining freedom
- If the devil can’t succeed in attacking us in our mind, he will try to attack us in our body
 - Satan’s most obvious attack on the body is sickness & disease
 - Other methods of attack are addictions, (food, substance abuse, etc.)
 - Satan’s aim is to control our body, weaken it, or destroy it altogether
 - The way to keep our body free from satan’s control is to present it to God as a living sacrifice

2. Our Bodies have become the Temple of the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 6:9–20 (NKJV) *Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, **10** nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. **11** And **such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. 12** All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. **13** Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now **the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. 14** And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. **15** Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! **16** Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” **17** But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. **18** Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. **19** 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? 20** For **you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body** and in your spirit, which are God’s.*

- In this chapter, Apt. Paul speaks about (against) sexual immorality
- In this context he says:
 - your body no longer belongs to you, to do with it as you wish
 - you have been bought with a price (with the blood of Jesus)
 - you are no longer your own
- Therefore, flee sexual immorality
- Vs. 19 ... **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit ...**
- Vs. 20 ... **therefore glorify God in your body**

3. We do not let sin rule in our mortal Body

Romans 6:12–14 (NIV) *Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. (NLT) 13 Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. 14 Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God’s grace.*

- The Bible commands us to not let sin reign in our body
- Don’t let any part of your body become an instrument of evil
- Use your whole body as an instrument to do what’s right for the glory of God

Romans 1:24 (NKJV) *Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to **dishonor their bodies among themselves.***

- In this context, Paul speaks about sexual sin, including homosexuality
- Those who engage in illicit sexual practices are dishonouring their bodies among themselves

1 Thessalonians 4:3–5 (ESV) *For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that **each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor,** 5 not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God.*

- God commands us to control our body in holiness & honour

4. I discipline my Body

1 Corinthians 9:27 (NKJV) *But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.*

- I discipline my body (**KJV**. I keep under my body ...)
- I bring it into subjection (**NASB**. .. I make it my slave ...)
- Paul says: If I don't discipline & dominate my body, I will become disqualified

5. Presenting our Body holy and acceptable

a. Proper clothing

Deuteronomy 22:5 (NKJV) *A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment, for all who do so are an abomination to the Lord your God.*

- God does not allow gender confusion among his people

b. Body cuttings, piercings & markings

Leviticus 19:28 (AMP) *You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead nor print or tattoo any marks upon you; I am the Lord.*

- Cutting the flesh of their body was a pagan way of mourning the dead
- Tattoos on their bodies connected them to the worship of various idols
- God says: I am the Lord (I do not require that from you)

Comments in Dake's Annotated Bible: [print any marks upon you]

Connected with superstition, tattooing was practiced in various pagan nations from the earliest times, as well as markings with paint and cutting the flesh.

- Although this is not necessarily the case today, tattooing the body is still a pagan practice today and not recommended for believers
- That said, tattooing has become mainstream today, and we expect many people with tats to get saved in time to come
- We love & accept them like we love & accept everyone else

- Missionaries have been accused of trying to westernise tribal people that have committed their lives to Jesus Christ
- But the goal is not to "westernise", but to disciple new converts, and to "de-paganise" them, so as to present them to Christ pure and holy