

FROM THE PREACHER

By: Blake Hudson

The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit: 1 Corinthians 6:19–20

In the last article we considered Romans 8:9–11, now I would like to consider 1 Corinthians 6:19–20 and what it teaches about the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. While verses 19–20 are our focus, I will include some of the preceding verses for context:

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 prostitute? Never! ¹⁶ Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.” ¹⁷ But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin

a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that **your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,** ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (1 Corinthians 6:15–20)

First, we must head off an objection: isn't Paul referring to the “body” of the corporate Church and not to the bodies of individual Christians? It is true that earlier in the letter (1 Corinthians 3:16–17) Paul speaks of the entire Church as being the temple of the Spirit; however, the context of the verses above demands that Paul be speaking of the bodies of individual believers, not to “the body” of the Church as a whole. Paul is speaking of the individual bodies that make up the “body” of the Church. That this is the case is made certain by Paul's instruction to flee from sexual immorality – a sin unique to the bodies of individuals and impossible for an abstraction such as a “corporate body” to commit. So, throughout these verses Paul is certainly referring to the bodies of individual believers.

Now, let's consider verses 19–20; what does Paul say? Paul says that the body of the believer “is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you.” Paul is clearly offering the reader an analogy: just as God literally dwelt in the temple through His Spirit, so now He literally dwells in the believer through His Spirit. If Paul does *not* mean to indicate a literal indwelling of the Holy Spirit, why does he use such language? The natural reading of “your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God” is that 1) the Spirit is from God, 2) He is within the Christian, and 3) He is within the Christian literally and personally so that the Christian's body can even be referred to as a temple. If Paul does not want the reader to think that the Spirit actually dwells within the Christian, he is choosing all of the wrong words.

Like we discussed with Romans 8:9–11, Paul could have written something else. Paul *could* have written that “your body is a temple of [the truth] within you” or something like that, but the fact is he did *not*. In fact, like in Romans, Paul makes no qualifying statements and allows the plain reading of the text, with all of its implications, to remain clearly before the reader. According to Paul, the Holy Spirit is “from God,” is “within you,” and therefore “your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit.” Again, I am constrained by Scripture. I read that the Spirit dwells within the Christian in an analogous way as He previously dwelt in the temple, and I must accept that testimony.

“But!” some will say, “the Bible also says that Christ is in us and that we are in Christ and we don't take *those* statements literally. The Holy Spirit is in us in the same figurative way that Christ is in us and we in Christ.” This, in my opinion, is the best biblical objection to a literal, personal indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Lord willing, we will consider it next week.

Attention Youth!

The next Bible Scouts will be on December 7th, after evening worship.



Hey Teens!

The next Teen Devotional will be December 14th. Hope you'll join us!

Adult Bible Study

Sunday morning's Adult Bible class will be covering... **Acts 16:16-40**

Men's Budget Breakfast with a Work Day to follow, will be December 13th. Please make plans to attend.



Ladies' Breakfast

Host: Karen Ratcliff
When: Saturday, December 13th
Time: 10:00am
Where: 2884 Brindle Path Ln.
Friendswood, Tx



The GALS are missing several white, rectangular, tablecloths if you know of their whereabouts, please contact Tammy Sanford or Francene Lindsey.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES...

- If you would like to donate toward college student care packages, please see Carol King.
- We are collecting funds for Central Texas Children's Home, in honor of National Orphans Day. Please write CTCH on the memo line of your check or on the brown envelope from the pew.
- Through the end of the year, any donation made to Impact will be doubled. Please mark “Matching Funds” on the memo line of your check.
- Sponsor a preaching student in India. \$50 a month for in person students or \$20 a month for online classes. Make sure to write “India” on the memo line on your check or on the brown envelope from the pew.

Please Pray

Karrie Kramer is home recovering well...Maria Sarabia is scheduled to have her baby 12/1...Butch Willcut fell last week and is having a lot of pain...TJ and Amber Austin's baby is having some heart issues...Vickie Fagan, Emma Fagans daughter-in-law, had 3 pins placed in her ankle...Mona Higgins, sister of Doris Burnett and Lucille Hudgeons, has been diagnosed with bone cancer...Wayne Satchell, co-worker of Kyle Teat, is being treated at MD Anderson...Paul Stallberg, co-worker of Stephen Bailey is having a difficult time with chemo...Johnny Toone, Karen Lowe's son, will begin treatment soon...John Ward, cousin of Brenda Fagan, has an aggressive form of lymphoma

PLEASE REMEMBER:

Len Boling, Dorothy Booth, Shirley Brown, James Carr, Pattie Cooper, Barbara Filipp, Robert Gautney, Jeanie Granger, Cliff Harper, Jackie Haynes, Erin West Janik, Karen Lowe, David Johnson, Dorothy King, Marie Leblanc, Charm Moser, Lila Odom, Karen Smith, Charles and Elizabeth Street, Andy Tilley, Caesar Vereen, Maggie Walker