

## Sunday School Lesson for the Month of November 2012

### The Stewardship of the Body

(I Corinthians 6:12-20)

**(Sunday, November 4, 2012)**

Paul took a high view of the body. Its care and discipline were an essential part of his thoughts. Would Paul have agreed with the proverb, “cleanliness is next to godliness?” No doubt he would have said, “cleanliness is a part of godliness, especially so if you understand this to include ethical and moral cleanliness.” Paul did nothing to impair the functions of his body, enfeeble its powers, or to prostitute it to base uses.

The Christian position is that the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, the instrument of the mind, the dwelling place of the inner person.

#### **I. The Body: Whose is it?**

The body is God’s! This is why, as far as our bodies are concerned, we have a stewardship.

##### **A. The body is God’s; He designed it.**

Centuries ago, the psalmist said, “I will give thank unto thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” (Ps. 139:14) What would he have said if our modern knowledge of anatomy been available to him?

##### **“We are fearfully and wonderfully made.”**

Think of those giants of the body: the brain, the heart, and the lungs. Even primitive humans sensed that these organs played dramatic roles within the body. Though their functions long remained clothed in mystery.

Think of those other parts of the body: the eyes, the nose, throat and skin. They keep us in contact with the world around us, introducing us to its delights and protect us from its dangers. Together the muscles, nerves, and bones give us the control we need to carry out the incredibly complex commands of the brain. Think about the stomach, the liver, the colon, the gallbladder, the pancreas, and the kidneys. Think of the blood and glands. God designed the body! Only He could have done it!!!

##### **B. The body is God’s; He created it.**

In the simplest language possible, the creation record tells us the true nature of man. **“God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.” (Gen. 2:7)** It is the fact

that “God breathed” that makes humans different from animals. In this sense, humans are like God, for God’s breath is in them. Because they have a body, they are like the animals. Humans, therefore, enjoy the privileges of participating in a good world with the capacities of growth and fellowship with God.

**C. The body is God’s; He redeemed it.**

God spoke thus to His people: “Now thus saith Jehovah that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel: by thy name, thou are mine.” (Isa. 43:1) Just believe this word and your body, your life becomes sacred. You will hear with joy Paul’s appeal to the Roman Christians to **“present you bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God.” (Rom. 12:1)**

**(Sunday, November 11, 2012)**

**II. The Body: What is it?**

In simplest terms the Bible tells us that the body is a dwelling place, the house of the inner person. Paul tells the Corinthians, **“we know that if the earthly house of our Tabernacle be dissolved, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.” (2 Cor. 5:1)**

**A. The Body is the dwelling place of our minds, our rational nature.**

The rational, moral, and spiritual nature of humans is all included in “the image of God.”

**B. The Body is also the dwelling place of the human spirit and soul.**

We have a body; we are a soul. For the Christian, the body is the dwelling place, the instrument of the soul.

**C. Most important for the Christian, the body is the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.**

This is the full impact of our Scripture reading: “or know ye not that you body is a Temple.....?” Paul admonishes the Ephesians: “Be filled with the Spirit (5:18),” but too often we are filled with something else. We are often filled with ourselves instead of Him.

(Sunday, November 18, 2012)

### **III. The Body: How should we use it?**

**A. On the one hand, there are the wrong uses of the body.** This is to be unfaithful in our stewardship.

1. Whatever impairs the body's normal functions is wrong: The habitual use of Alcohol, drugs and smoking impairs the body's normal function. It is wrong, sinful and poor stewardship of the body.
2. Whatever enfeebles the body's power is wrong: Whatever makes it old before its time is sin. We should take better care of ourselves in our youth!
3. Whatever prostitute's the body to base uses is wrong. Sexual impurity is wrong. There is application in 1 Cor. 6:15-18. Fornication, as a form of unfaithfulness to God, has no place in the church. It has no place in the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is the body.
4. Whatever defiles the body is wrong.
5. Whatever permits the body to become a vehicle of uncontrolled passions is wrong.

**B. But on the other hand, there are the uses of the body that God intended.**

1. God intends that our bodies be used as instruments of His worship and praise. The parts of the body – the eyes, the tongue, the mind, the emotions – have important parts to play in worship.
2. God intends that our bodies be vehicles of righteousness. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "Through our outward man is decaying, yet our inward man is renewed day by day (2 Cor. 4:16)." The body decays as time destroys it. But while we are wearing out a body, we are growing a soul.
3. God intends that our bodies be instruments of his glory. Paul prayed that Christ might be magnified in his body (Phil. 1:2). Oh that his prayer might be ours.

### **IV. The Body: What of it?**

To what conclusion are we to come? The supreme revelation of God was in His taking on of human flesh in the person of His Son. "The word became flesh" (John 1:14). This is why Christians must think of the body as sacred.

Jesus, our Savior, had a human body subjected to all the ills and pains that "flesh is heir to." He shared all our sorrows and woes but not our sins. Wherefore, let no one despise his or her body, abuse it, pollute it, defile it, or fail to be a steward of it. God himself once took on a human body.