

07.13.2008 (Sun)

Exalted In My Body (Php 1:20)

This world is adulterous world with “crooked and depraved generation” (Php 2:15). Immoral behavior, sexually or otherwise, is the at the core of being adulterous. And, why is that? Not knowing God leads to being adulterous. Perversion is not knowing God. Canaanites worshipped their idols adulterously (Ex 34:15). What is adultery? What is perversion?

First, adultery is not knowing God. Hos 5:4 says “Their deeds do not permit them to return to their God. A spirit of prostitution is in their heart; they do not acknowledge the Lord.” The Bible says *knowing God is eternal life (Jn 17:3)*. Thus, not knowing Him leads to disorderly and reckless life. The life of God means sinless life which is comprised of eternal joy, peace and rest.

Second, adultery is having friendship with the world. Adultery is being close to the world, falling into it, being polluted by it and becoming one with it. It is all adulterous before God. Being adulterous is being enemies with God. Hear what Jas 4:4 is saying: “You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.”

Third, insincerity is the cause of being adulterous. Adultery is borne out of not loving God. In 2 Tim 3:1 and following we see that the signs of the end times begins with loving yourself instead of loving God first. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud and more. All these characteristics share the same root of evil that adultery has.

So what does God desire from us? 1 Cor 6:13 says that “the body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.” The body here symbolize the temple, the church. People of the world use their body indiscriminately. Furthermore, they live idly. Lev 11:44 says “be holy, because I am holy!”

Where is the focus in the body? It is in the eyes! Mt 6:22 tells us that the “the eye is the lamp of the body.” So how important is it to see the wonders of God? *Today can be the day to see the work of God being displayed in you!* If you let Him, God loves to use your body to work out His redemptive plan for all.

1 Cor 6:20 commands us to honor God with our body. The church *is* the body of Christ (Eph 1:23). It is the mouth that pollutes the body. Jas 3:6 “the tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body.”

The body needs to bear the mark of Jesus (Gal 6:17). The mark of Jesus is the cross! The cross is about saving others. We must have the mark of Jesus in our mind and in our personalities. It's the proof that you're overcoming sin and its influences. That is why 1 Jn 3:18 says "let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."

There is the Spirit of God in the mark of Jesus. The Bible says that the person who unites with the Lord is one with Him in spirit (1 Cor 6:17). How are you supposed to meet God who is the Spirit? It isn't by some kind of technique or skills. It isn't by some special feelings, either. No, it isn't by smartness or intelligence or incredible strength.

Rather, we meet God thru worship. It is the spiritual and truthful worship as written in Jn 4:24. "God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship him in spirit and in truth!" The Holy Spirit is the "spirit" and the "truth." God bestows His Spirit upon all those whose sins are forgiven.

The person who received the Holy Spirit gives the spiritual worship. Rom 12:1 says to "offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship." You give your heart. But, you also give your body. Faith isn't a symbol, you see. *Faith is being sure of what you hope for and certain of what you do not see.* Believing God without giving your body is just pigment of your imagination.

You repent in heart. You repent in body as well. You work out faith thru the body. Without the body you just can't do the work of God. What did Jesus say before the troubled disciples when they saw the risen Lord? Let's read Lk 24:39.

"Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have!"

So here's the final thought. How is the Christ living in your body? Christ is exalted in your body when you give your body wholeheartedly for His work. When our faith is weak we give our body partially for His service. But, when our faith becomes strong by growing in the Lord we can have the unblemished faith (2 Pet 3:14, 1 Thess 5:23, 1 Pet 5:10).

Let's listen in to 1 Thess 5:23: "May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ!" Yes, what you do with your body counts. It counts toward your destiny. What you do with your body each moment matters eternally!

Satan tries to fill us with grudge and make us complain. Temptations sneak into our lives thru dissatisfaction and unthankful heart. *Thankful heart is the heaven's door (Psa 100:4). God is glorified when you give your thankfulness thru your body and mind (Psa 50:23)!*