

OUR BODIES FOR THE LORD

References:

2 Corinthians 11:2

Notes For Servants:

- 1.
- 2.

Objectives:

General:

Specific:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 3.

Instructions:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Bible Verse:

“For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ..”

(2 Cor 11:2)

Lesson:

Our Bodies for the Lord

WHY GOD CREATED THE BODY?

God created the body in order to distinguish man from the angels on the one hand, and from the animals on the other hand, The angels are pure spirit, and the animals are pure flesh. Man is both spirit and flesh.

The Spirit and the Flesh interact. Each effects the other. Thus when we keep our body pure. Our inward life is more healthy.

THE BODY IS THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The body plays an important role in the life of man. We should remember that Christ Himself became man, and had a human body.

St. Paul says, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? you are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body". (1 Cor. 6:19-20). And in another place, he says, "Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never !" (1 Cor. 6:15). St. Paul does not use these words metaphorically, but literally, as we also learn from Ephesians 5:30.

The Lord Jesus Himself said that He is the Vine and we are the branches (John 15: 1-2). The branches are part of the Vine.

THE CHRISTIAN'S ATTITUDE TOWARD HIS/HER BODY

The members of the body are all equal, since each of them is part of the temple of the Holy Spirit. There cannot be "pure" members and "impure" ones. In this first letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul carefully explained this. He said, "The parts of the body which seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those parts of the body which we think less honourable we invest with the greater honour; and our unrepresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. God has so adjusted the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior parts that there may be no discord in the body" (1 Cor. 12:22-24).

Clement of Alexandria says, "We should not be ashamed of those members of our body which God was not ashamed to create".

THE BODY HELPS US TO FULFIL GOD'S PURPOSES

In his letter to the Romans, St. Paul tells them, "I appeal to you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Rom. 12:1-2).

The body was not given to us that we may live in selfish, lust, but that we may employ it in the service of others. In this way, we fulfil God's will. If we are too lazy or too selfish to help others, our position is like that of the wicked servant who hid his talent. If we look around us, we find endless opportunities for service. We could help our younger brothers and sisters in their studies. We could say a soothing word to an unhappy person, or talk about Christ with someone who has not experienced His love, or help someone who is poorer than we are. In this way God's holy name is glorified.

The saints whose biographies we read all regarded themselves as hands and feet which carry out God's purposes in the world.

DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD

The Christian who sincerely loves his Lord always seeks to be transformed by the renewal of his mind. This is achieved through studying God's word and through honest self-examination in the light of His word. Such a person tries to be alone with God in prayer at least once every day. He asks God to reveal to him anything wrong in his life, and the moment he discovers something wrong, he confesses it with sincere repentance. Daily renewal of the mind leads to an increasingly fellowship with God.

Are we conformed to this world, or have we experienced that change of heart which incites us to such daily renewal? Christians should not dishonour their body, in wearing indecent clothes they would be dishonouring the Temple of the Holy Spirit. As Christ turned out the buyers and sellers who dishonoured the temple of God, so also will he reject all what dishonour the Temple of the Holy Spirit.