

1 Corinthians 6:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

Analysis

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? Climactic theology: to sōma hymōn naos tou en hymin hagiou pneumatos estin (τὸ σῶμα ὑμῶν ναὸς τοῦ ἐν ὑμῖν ἁγίου πνεύματος ἐστίν). Naos (ναός, 'temple, sanctuary') is the inner holy place where God dwells—not outer courts but the sacred core. Each believer's body (singular 'temple') houses the Holy Spirit.

This revolutionizes self-perception: you're not autonomous—**ye are not your own** (οὐκ ἐστε ἑαυτῶν). Corinthian autonomy ('my body, my choice') collapses: **which ye have of God** (ὃ ἐχετε ἀπὸ θεοῦ)—the Spirit is gift and presence. Your body is on loan, a stewardship. Sexual sin desecrates the temple. Imagine defiling the Jerusalem temple with prostitution—unthinkable! Yet that's what porneia does to the Spirit's dwelling.

Historical Context

Israel's tabernacle/temple was God's earthly dwelling (Exodus 40:34-35, 1 Kings 8:10-11). Defiling it meant death (Leviticus 16). In the new covenant, believers individually and corporately are God's temple (3:16-17, 2 Corinthians 6:16). This democratized holiness: not just priests but all Christians are sacred space. Corinthians obsessed with spiritual status missed this: the Spirit's indwelling

demands holiness, not just charismatic gifts. Paul's rhetoric: you wouldn't defile the Jerusalem temple—why defile yourselves?

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How would viewing your body as the Holy Spirit's temple change your daily decisions about food, rest, media, and sexuality?
2. What does it mean practically that 'you are not your own'—how does this challenge autonomy narratives in modern culture?
3. How can the church teach temple theology without legalism—motivating holiness through worship, not fear?

Interlinear Text

ἡ	οὐκ	οἴδατε	ὅτι	τὸ	σῶμα	ὑμῶν	ναὸς	τοῦ
What	not	know ye	that	G3588	body	your	the temple	G3588
G2228	G3756	G1492	G3754		G4983	G5216	G3485	
ἐν	ὑμῖν	ἁγίου	πνεύματος	ἐστίν	οὗ	ἔχετε	ἀπὸ	
which is in	you	of the Holy	Ghost	is	which	ye have	of	
G1722	G5213	G40	G4151	G2076	G3739	G2192	G575	
θεοῦ	καὶ	οὐκ	ἐστὲ	ἐαυτῶν;				
God	and	not	ye are	your own				
G2316	G2532	G3756	G2075	G1438				

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 3:16 (Spirit): Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

2 Corinthians 6:16 (Temple): And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

1 Peter 2:5 (Holy): Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Psalms 100:3 (References God): Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Titus 2:14 (Parallel theme): Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

John 2:21 (Temple): But he spake of the temple of his body.

2 Corinthians 5:15 (Parallel theme): And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

1 Kings 20:4 (Parallel theme): And the king of Israel answered and said, My lord, O king, according to thy saying, I am thine, and all that I have.

1 Chronicles 29:14 (Parallel theme): But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.

Psalms 12:4 (Parallel theme): Who have said, With our tongue will we prevail; our lips are our own: who is lord over us?