

# Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

*Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ*

November 1, 2017

## Your Body

A police officer pulled a man over for driving 20mph over the speed limit. "I was not speeding," the man said. "It was my car." What are you talking about?" the officer asked. "I try to stay under the legal speed, but my car keeps going too fast," the man answered. The officer looked at the man in disbelief and asked, "Are you telling me the only reason you exceed the speed limit is because this particular vehicle makes you drive too fast?" "No sir," the man answered, "All my vehicles make me speed."

The story above is both fictional and absurd. Yet it illustrates the foolishness of blaming sin upon the body. How many times have you heard it said that you will continue to sin as long as you are in this earthy body? What does that have to do with anything? Isn't that like blaming the car for speeding? Our body is both a house and a vehicle. What goes on in a house is not the house's fault. Neither is the manner in which a vehicle is driven the vehicle's fault. If a car is used as a getaway vehicle in a bank robbery, you do not blame the car. If a house is used for prostitution, you do not blame the house. So then why is it that so often the body is blamed for the sins of the person who lives within it?

The apostle Paul confronted this issue head-on when he wrote "*...every sin that a man doeth is without (aside from) the body...*" I Corinthians 6:18. The

body is never the source of sin. The body is just the vehicle the sinner drives. Jesus told us where sin comes from. He said *“those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man...”* Matthew 15:18-20. Sin always issues from within and reveals the content of a person’s heart.

In the same verse we mentioned above, Paul makes another astounding statement, saying, *“but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.”* 1 Corinthians 6:18. When one party sins against another, there is an offender and an offended. Even so when a person commits fornication their body is not the offender. The offender is the lust-filled person who lives within. The body is the offended party because it has been abused to fulfill the sinful heart’s unclean desires.

In the 7th chapter of Romans, the apostle Paul describes his struggles when he was in the flesh and under the Law of Moses. Romans 7:5. Sin worked in his members because sin had residence in his fallen human nature. He found no deliverance from this struggle until he surrendered to Jesus Christ Romans 7:25 who died to purge the conscience of those who come to him. Hebrews 9:14.

I knew of a man decades ago who castrated himself seeking to control the sinful lusts that raged within. The mutilation of his body did nothing to subdue the uncleanness of his heart. In fact those things only increased. This man tried in vain to do with a knife that which the blood of Christ was freely shed to do for all. Only the blood

of Christ can wash sin from the heart of fallen mankind.

There are things your body can do and things your body cannot do. It can carry you many places for many years. It can also get tired, sick, or even die. But your body of itself can neither commit sin nor do righteousness. Those things issue from whoever lives within.

There are also many things that can be done to and through your body. You can abuse or neglect your body. You can also sin against your body. You can work sinfulness through your body or Christ can work righteousness through your body. You can present your body to the world to waste away its time upon earth or you can present your body to God Romans 12:1 so that he may quicken it by the Holy Ghost Romans 8:11 and use it for his glory. I Corinthians 6:20.

The body of a child of God is *“the temple of the Holy Ghost”* I Corinthians 6:19 and Paul said, *“...the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.”* I Corinthians 3:17. Our body is the house Christ prepared for the Spirit of God to dwell in. He did not say it should be holy. He said it IS holy. How can this be? The answer is quite simple. It has been washed by Christ Jesus our Lord. The Bible says we are invited to draw near into the holiest *“with full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”* Hebrews 10:19-22. Our full assurance of faith is that Christ has sanctified us both within (*“having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience”*) and without (*“and our bodies washed with pure water”*). The water and the blood that flowed from the side of Christ is fully sufficient to wash the cause of sin from our hearts

and the stain of sin from our bodies. THE BODY OF A CHILD OF GOD IS HOLY! Christ has prepared it. He simply asks you to present it back to God for his glory. Romans 12:1.