

**EPHESIANS – THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S CHURCH –
OUR IDENTITY, OUR WALK, OUR WARFARE
PROGRAM 11 (#912191)
WEEK 3 (912343)
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**SERIES: Ephesians – The Mystery Of God’s Church –
Our Identity, Our Walk, Our Warfare**

TITLE: Program 11 – Our Bodies Are God’s Possession

MONDAY

OPEN

You’ve been taking care of that body, trying to keep it in shape. I mean so that you can really flex those muscles. Or you’ve abused it. You’ve thought I hope I don’t reap the repercussions of eating and eating and eating and eating. We are consumed with our bodies. The question is what’s going to happen to them? How long is this body going to last? Is it dust to dust or is something going to happen to that dust? We’re going to talk about it today. What happens with you die?

PART ONE

We are really a body society aren’t we? I mean we’re so preoccupied with what is happening to this body. How do you keep it in shape? How do you keep healthy? How do you clothe it? How do you make it look this way?

And most of the world wants to keep it young and most of the world wants to keep it sexy. What does God think about our body? Well I want you to know that God’s very interested in your body. And this study is not about health. It’s about a matter of the soul and the Spirit and the body. So, let’s open the Word of God and let’s see what God has to say to us as we discover truth for ourselves. Well we’ve come to that thirteenth and fourteenth verse of Ephesians chapter 1. We’ve come to the end of this eulogy of praise that just flows out of the very essence of Paul’s being as he expounds all this awesome truth about God and about how God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world and how the Jews were the first to believe in Jesus and then the Gentiles come along and they also, having believed. What happens to them? What is the truth that he is going to teach us about this salvation, how we have been predestined to adoption as sons, how we have been redeemed and have forgiveness of sins and how He’s done all of this according to the kind intention of His will, the will that He purposed in God? Where do our bodies come into this? Isn’t it all something that is simply spiritual? No. We are **“...blessed...with every spiritual blessing in...heavenly places in Christ [Jesus].” (Ephesians 1:3b)** But God is also interested in the body. So let’s see what he has to say about salvation. In Ephesians, chapter 1 in verse 13 it says **“In Him...,”** in Christ, and this is one of the things that we are marking. And if you would mark this and you would put down what you learn from marking **“in Him”** in verse 13 you would see that **“...having...believed...”** in Him **“...you were sealed...with the Holy Spirit of promise.” (1:13b)** Let’s read it. **“In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth....” (1:13a)** And he describes what that message of truth is. It’s the gospel of your salvation. Gospel is a word that simply means the good news of your salvation. **“[Having listened] to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him...,”** in Christ, **“...with the Holy Spirit of promise.” (Ephesians 1:13)** Now let me go on. The Holy Spirit of promise,

“**who is given...**” to you, “**who [was] given as a pledge...,**” as a guarantee, “**...of our inheritance....**” Now hang on. It sounds a little complicated. We’re going to unravel it all. He says “**Who given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view....**” Here’s where the body comes in. “**...With a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.**” (Ephesians 1:13-14) Now what’s the redemption of God’s own possession? Hey, it’s you. It is you, not just soul, not just spirit, but it is you. It is the full package. It is body. It is soul, your mind and your thoughts and your emotions and your dreams and your ambition, and it is spirit. That’s what He’s going to redeem. Listen, when God purchased you my friend and when I say purchased what I mean is when He bought you, when He redeemed you, when He paid the price which was the blood of Jesus Christ to free you from the slave market of sin, because whosoever “**...commits sin is the slave of sin.**” (John 8:34) But “**...if the Son...,**” and I’m quoting John 8, “**...if the Son therefore shall [set] you free, [you] shall be free indeed.**” (John 8:36, KJV) So when God came along and He redeemed you and He redeemed you body, soul, and spirit. He paid the price for the total person. You say, “I never thought about that.” This is why you have to stop and think about what you do with this body. This is why you have to stop and think about how you dress this body. Am I going to make this body a symbol of sex? Am I going to use this body to cause other people to lust? And many women are doing that today. And some of them are doing it intentionally. I mean they know what they’re doing. And that’s why they get the breast jobs and that’s why they unbutton the blouses and that’s why they let it all hang out. I mean I am just absolutely stunned, horrified at these women and the way they’re dressing. And I think, gal, you either know a man and you are out to seduce every man that you can. You are out to turn on every man that you can and make him lust for you or honey, you don’t know what you’re doing. And I think a lot of women don’t know what they’re doing, causing a man to lust. And they think oh come on, get off of

it. Get off of it. He is just a dirty old man. That’s all he is. Get off of it. They’re not dirty old men. They’re men and God made a man to be turned on by sight. So I want to ask you a question. Do you want to be just a sex symbol or would you like to be known as the dwelling of God, the body that belongs to God? Now I want to take you to 1 Corinthians chapter 6 and I want to show you something, 1 Corinthians chapter 6 and in 1 Corinthians chapter 6 is a verse that I wish that I had known before I decided I was going to become a sex symbol, before I decided that I was going to use my clothes and use my figure to turn on men, to let them just look at me and drool, but knowing what I know now I would not want to be guilty of causing any man to battle with the desires of his flesh, with the lust of his eyes and cause him to commit adultery by keeping on looking at me and anticipating in his mind what it would be like to have me. Now 1 Corinthians chapter 6, in 1 Corinthians chapter 6 verse 19 this is what it says, **“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you...?” (1 Corinthians 6:19a)** Now remember we just read in Ephesians, “[having heard] **the gospel of your salvation—having...believed** [in your heart]...,” (1:13) is where you believe in your heart and in your mind. And to the Jew they were synonymous. **“Having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise who** [was given as a pledge or as a] **guarantee, [of] the redemption of [this] purchased possession....” (Ephesians 1:13b-14a, NKJV)** In other words God is saying, “Hey, I purchased you. I purchased you body, soul, and spirit.” All right now according to 1 Corinthians chapter 6 where is the Holy Spirit? Well let’s look at it again cause I don’t want you to miss it. **“...Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit...,”** now watch, **“...who is in you...?” (1 Corinthians 6:19a)** The Holy Spirit comes to indwell every single believer. And this happens the minute that you are saved. It’s called in another scripture, the baptism, that identification with, the uniting with the Holy Spirit. So your body, your body which is now God’s body, because it is His purchased possession, this

body is to say glory to God, not glory to me, not using me as a symbol of sin or as an enticement for sin, to make people sin, but rather for me to realize that my **“...body is [the] temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you...,”** now watch, **“...the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own.” (1 Corinthians 6:19)** On July 16th 1963 at the age of 29, I received Jesus Christ and He came to live inside of me. I was in a condo that I rented. I was a divorcee. And I was in this condo with my two boys. And that day I fell down on my knees and I gave my life to God. I did not know what was happening to me. I only knew that I was to be the child of God. I only knew that I was to give myself to God unconditionally. And so I got on my knees and I said, “God, You can do anything You want with me.” I did not know the doctrine. I did not know that at that moment when I surrendered my life to Jesus Christ, when I believed that He was the Son of God that God put His Holy Spirit within me. But I will tell you this. When I got up off my knees there was something that I knew that changed what I did with my body. What was it? I’ll tell you right after this announcement.

PART TWO

Welcome back. So what happened to me when I got up off my knees and the Holy Spirit was within me? I didn’t understand it. I really didn’t know because I didn’t know the Word of God, but I knew that I knew that I knew that wherever I went, now watch, Jesus Christ was going with me. Jesus Christ was going with me. That’s all I knew. And He was going with me in the person of the Holy Spirit. And I knew this that when I dressed I couldn’t dress sensually. I knew that I had to dress in a way that was absolutely pleasing to God. Now how did I know that? I only knew that because when God comes inside of us He makes us a brand new creation. What makes me different as a child of God from all the other people walking on the face of this earth that don’t know God that have never believed in Jesus Christ? It’s

only one thing. And that one thing is the Spirit of God. And the Spirit of God who comes inside of you, who comes to live inside of you remains inside of you. [He becomes the guarantee of the redemption of this body, this purchased possession.] (Paraphrase, Ephesians 1:14, NKJV) Now let me show that to you. First of all I want you to see that in 1 Corinthians chapter 6 in verse 20 he says this. He says, “**...your body...**,” in verse 19, it’s “**...a temple of the Holy Spirit who...you have from God....**,” He says, “**...You are not your own.**” And then he goes on to say “Why are you not your own? “**...You have been bought with a price....**” (6:20a) Now you know what the price is. If you’ve been studying with me, if you’ve downloaded the study guide, at “preceptsforlife.com” and downloaded your free study guide, because you want to be a man or woman of the Word of God. You want to discover truth for yourself. You want to know that you know that you know that this is truth. And you realize that this is the Word of God. You have seen that you were bought with a price and that’s what the word redemption means. And the price was the blood of Jesus as I said earlier. “**...Therefore....**,” (6:20b) and when you see a “therefore” a therefore is a term of conclusion, so you say, “Hey, what’s the therefore there for?” And the therefore says, “**...therefore....**,” this is the conclusion, since “**...you’ve been bought with a price....**,” since God purchased you, since “**...your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit....**,” (6:19b) “**...therefore glorify God....**,” where? “**...In your body.**” (1 Corinthians 6:20) So let’s just stop for a minute and let me ask you a question. Are you glorifying God in your body? What does the way you take care of your body, what does the way that you dress your body say to others? Does it say holy? Or does it say lust, lust, lust, lust? I mean when you go to buy those jeans and I think so many times as I walk through airports and I walk through airports a lot, and I see a whole lot of posteriors and I think I wonder if they know how they look from the rear. There’s a big thing to make your rear look good. I mean what are we saying with our body? Are we hanging a

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sign on it that says you know, ah, marked down, slightly soiled, you know. It's here; it's been in that bed. It's been in that bed. What are you advertising with your body? Do you look like a lady or do you look like a prostitute? What do you look like? And I know that looking like a prostitute is in, but it's not in with God. And the way that you dress, the Bible talks about it in Proverbs chapter 6 and Proverbs chapter 7 about a strange woman, about the attire of a harlot. I write about it in my book and that book is titled "The Truth about Sex." It's everything that the Bible has to say about sex. And we talk about how you use this body not for sexual purposes except in the marriage bed, and that's the only place that you use it for your delight and your mates delight, for your husband's delight, or if you're a man, for your wife's delight. And notice I said man and woman because that's the way God designed it, not man and man and not woman and woman. But that's the way God designed it. And so if you don't understand all these things you need to get the book "The Truth about Sex" and you need to understand how this body can become His temple. Now let's go back to Ephesians chapter 1. And in Ephesians chapter 1 this is what he says. ["The Holy Spirit is given to us as a pledge, as a guarantee, of our inheritance."] (Paraphrase, Ephesians 1:13b-14a) Now that word for pledge is a-r-r-a-b-o-n (*arrhabon*) and it means that something is paid for ahead of time in order to confirm the transaction. And so what God is saying is this, it's so beautiful. He says the Holy Spirit inside of you is a pledge, it is your guarantee that God is going to take this body, this mortal and He's going to cause mortality to put on immortality. He is going to cause corruptibility to put on incorruptibility and He's going to take this body and He is going to turn it into an eternal body. Now watch what he says and I want to take you to 1 John chapter 3, 1 John chapter 3, just before the book of Revelation. And in 1 John chapter 3 this is what he says "**Beloved, now we are [the] children of God....**" (3:2a) The Holy Spirit's what makes me a child of God. And it says, "**...And it has not appeared...what we [shall] be. We know [though] that when He appears,**

we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.” (3:2b) 1

Thessalonians chapter 4 says that [when Jesus Christ comes back and He brings our spirit with Him then there’s going to be a resurrection of the body.] (Paraphrased, 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17) 1 Corinthians 15 at the end of that chapter is talking about **“this mortal will...put on immortality.”**

(15:54) God’s going to redeem the body. And what’s the guarantee? The guarantee is the Holy Spirit. Now I want you to go back to Ephesians chapter 1 for just a minute. It says, in verse 13, you **“...having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise.”**

(Ephesians 1:13b) So it’s a seal. Have you ever gotten a jar of iced tea or instant coffee and there’s a seal on the top? Did you ever get aggravated opening it? I did. And so I just took my knife and I went through the seal and all of a sudden I was covered with instant tea, all right, because that seal is a guarantee that nobody has tampered with that iced tea since it came from the factory. Well what is the seal? The seal, Beloved is yours and mine guarantee that someday because I have been sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise that someday this body will be resurrected. It will be a body like Jesus. I don’t know what it will be like, but I know I’ll be like Him. And I know that it’s an eternal body. And I know that He’s not going to leave me just as soul, and He’s not going to leave me just as spirit. But I know that He is going to let this mortal put on immortality. The body’s very important to Him. Treat it, Beloved, as His temple.