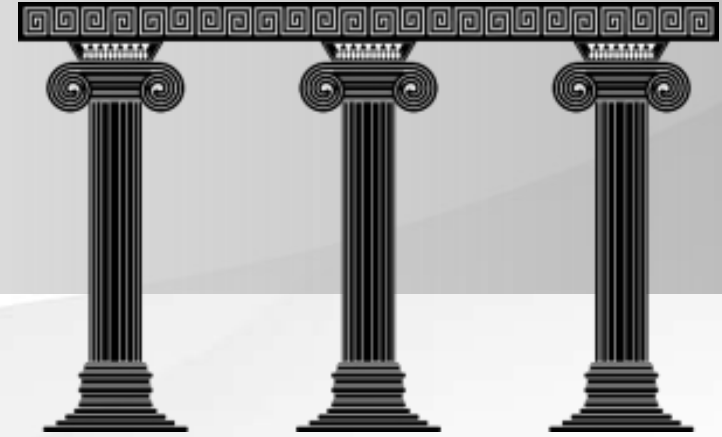


Lesson 6

Christ Cleanses the Temple



Introduction: In our last lesson we learned that Jesus has power to forgive and cleanse us. In this lesson we will learn about one aspect of our lives that Jesus wants to cleanse.



1. Why did God ask the Israelites to build Him a sanctuary? Exodus 25:8

Exodus 25:8

⁸ And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.

Psalms 11:4

⁴ The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD's throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.

- **Hebrews 8: 1** Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;
- ² A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.

[Note: God's real throne is in the sanctuary in heaven, but He manifested His presence in the earthly sanctuary (and temple) so that His people might realize His nearness. The Further-study verses are Ps. 11:4; Heb. 8:1, 2; 2 Chron. 6:18, 12; 7:1.]



2. What was one of the first things Jesus did after beginning His earthly ministry? John 2:14-17

John 2:14-17

- ¹⁴ And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:
- ¹⁵ And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;
- ¹⁶ And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.
- ¹⁷ And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.
- **[Ans. He cleansed the temple.]**



3. At the end of Jesus' ministry He again cleansed the temple. But because the religious leaders and people refused to keep the temple spiritually clean, God deserted it and it was soon destroyed. Although that temple no longer exists, does God still have a sacred dwelling place on earth? 1 Cor. 6:19, 20 [John 14:23]

1 Corinthians 6:19,20

- ¹⁹ 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?
- ²⁰ For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.
- ^{John 14:23} Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

Answer: Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Ghost!



4. In the New Testament, the Christian church and the Christian himself are called temples, because God desired to dwell within both. What will God do if we defile or destroy His temple? 1 Cor. 3:16, 17 [John 2:19, 21]

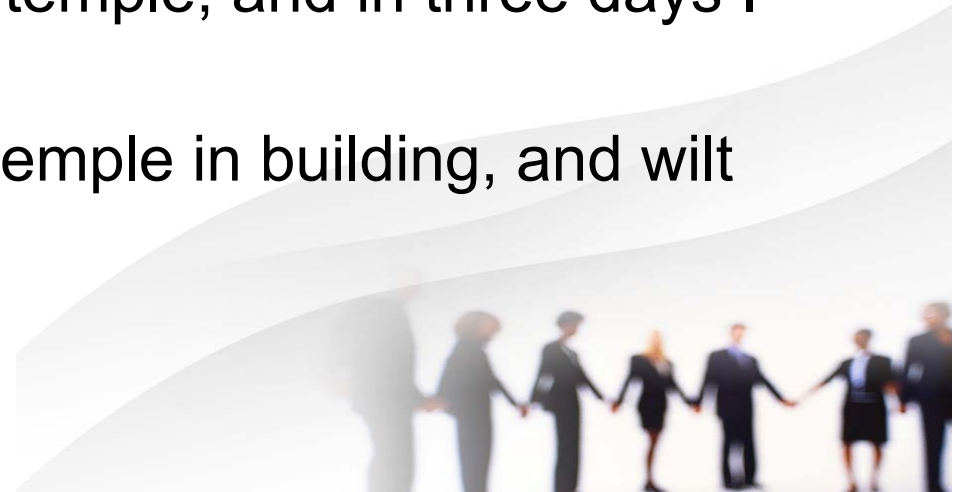
1 Cor. 3:16,17

- ¹⁶ Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?
- ¹⁷ If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

John 2:19-21

- ¹⁹ Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.
- ²⁰ Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?
- ²¹ But he spake of the temple of his body.

[Answer: God will destroy him]



5. What is one way that Daniel believed his body-temple could be defiled? Dan. 1:8, 12 [1 Cor. 9:25, 27]

- Daniel 1:8, 12
- ⁸ But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.
- ¹² Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.
- Cor. 9:27
- ²⁷ But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.



The king's **meat**, and...the **wine** he drank.



6. What was the original diet God created for human beings? Gen. 1:29 [Gen. 9:3, 4; 7:2]

Genesis 1:29

²⁹ And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

Genesis 9:3, 4

³ Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things.

⁴ But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.

[Ans: Fruit, grain, nuts and vegetables]



7. Man's original diet for the first 1656 years was of fruits, grains, nuts, and vegetables; and the average lifespan was 912 years! When vegetation was destroyed by the flood, God gave permission for the people to eat animal flesh. He had made provision for this by bringing extra of the "clean" animals into the ark. Why did God prohibit the Israelites from eating "unclean" animals? Deut. 14:2,3. What are some of these "unclean" creatures? Verses 3-20 [1 Peter 2:9; Lev. 11:1-47].

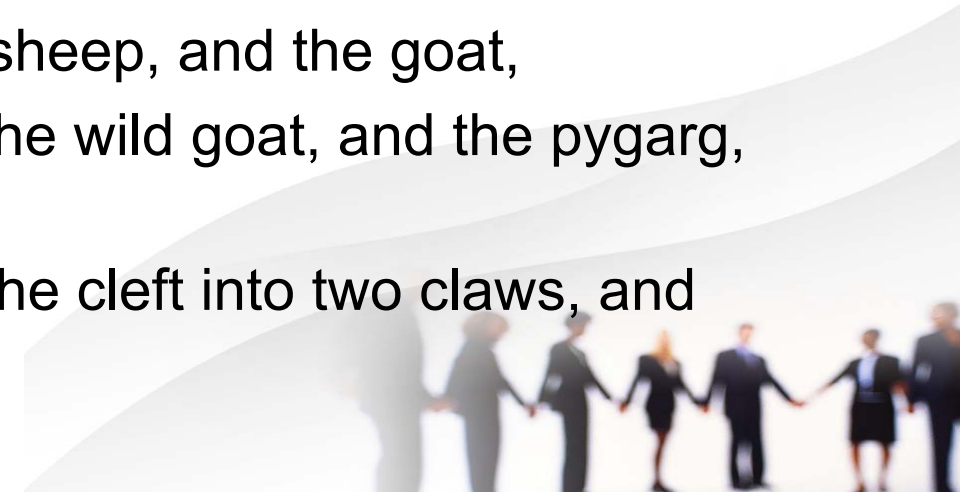
Deut. 14:2

- ² For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth.
- ³ Thou shalt not eat any abominable thing.

Deut. 14:4-6

- ⁴ These are the beasts which ye shall eat: the ox, the sheep, and the goat,
- ⁵ The hart, and the roebuck, and the fallow deer, and the wild goat, and the pygarg, and the wild ox, and the chamois.
- ⁶ And every beast that parteth the hoof, and cleaveth the cleft into two claws, and cheweth the cud among the beasts, that ye shall eat.

[Ans: Pigs, vultures, snakes, dogs, etc.]



The **unclean** animals



8. Some people, by misapplying Scripture, have suggested that these health laws from our Creator were only for the Jews (though Gentile bodies are really no different!). Paul's counsels on health were to the Gentiles (e. g., 1 Cor. 6:10, 19, 20; 10:31). How, and when, will God judge those who rebel against Him by defying His health laws? Isa. 66:16-17 [Rev. 21:27].

1 Cor. 6:19,20

- ¹⁹ 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?
- ²⁰ For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Cor. 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

Isa. 66:16-17

- ¹⁶ For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many.
- ¹⁷ They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind one tree in the midst, eating swine's flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the LORD.

Rev. 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Answer: We are to glorify God in our bodies. If we defile it, God plainly states that He will destroy us.



9. Besides eating “unclean” meat, what is another way we can defile the body? Prov. 23:29-33

Prov. 23:29-33

- 29 Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?
- 30 They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.
- 31 Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.
- 32 At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.
- 33 Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.



[Note: : In Bible times, wine meant grape juice—either fermented or fresh. Here it says, “Do not look on the wine when” it turns “red” and “swirls . . . smoothly.” In other words, do not drink grape juice (or any other juice) after it has fermented. 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Prov. 20:1]



Alcohol is Deceptive

It is addictive.

It destroys
brain cells.

It dramatically
effects our
ability to
reason.



10. Although cigarettes were not yet “invented” in Bible times, does not tobacco defile the body? [Note: Deut. 29:18 warns against a “poisonous herb”—KJV margin.]

Deut. 29:18

¹⁸ Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations; lest there should be among you a root that beareth gall and wormwood;



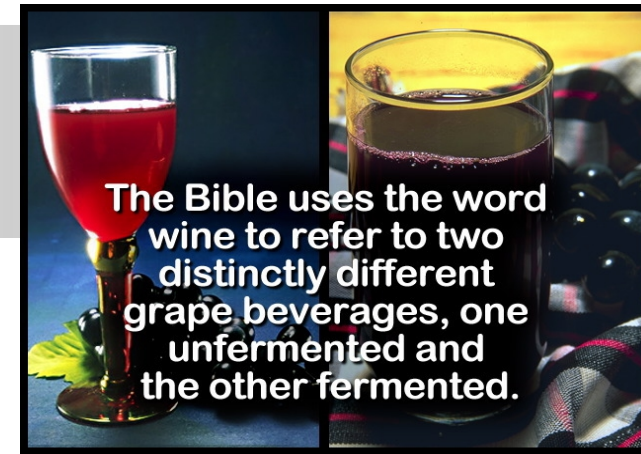


Cigarette smoking contributes to

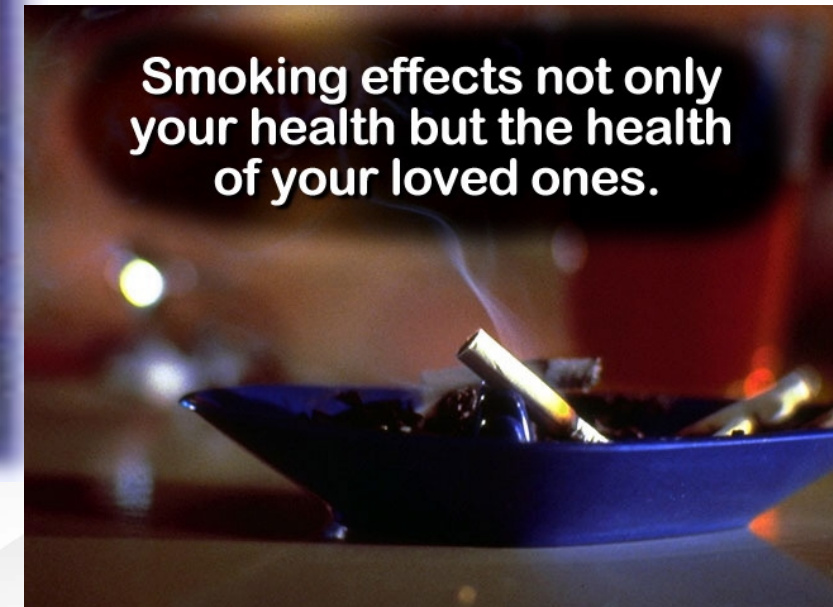
- 1. Heart diseases**
- 2. Strokes**
- 3. Various forms of cancer**
- 4. Emphysema**
- 5. Premature births**
- 6. Poor circulation**
- 7. Shortness of breath**



Somebody Said, I Can't See It!



One day he will not only see it, but...





WHAT CAN MAKE ME WHOLE AGAIN?

Sin starts out sweet to us.
Then it becomes a cancer

**Sin separates
from God.**

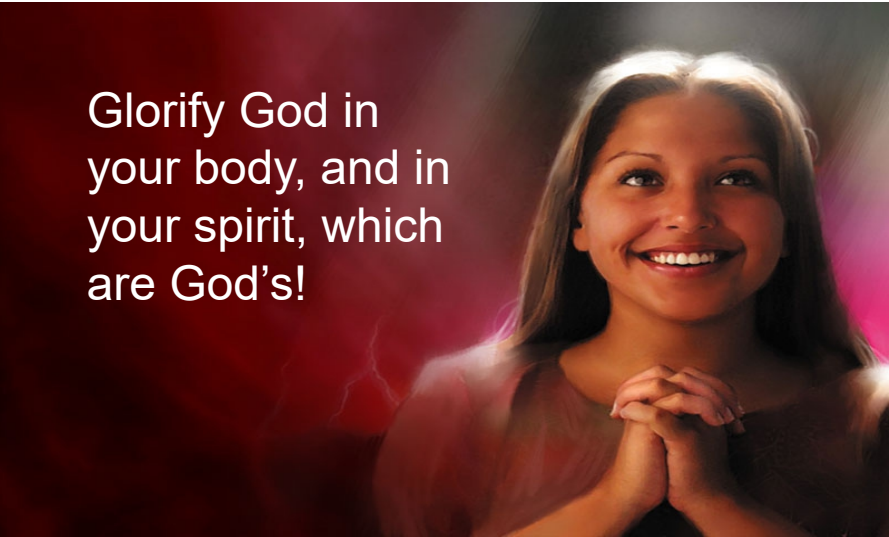
11. How does Paul summarize the way we are to treat our body-temples? 1 Cor. 10:31 [1 Thess. 5:23]

1 Cor. 10:31

³¹ Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Thess. 5:23

²³ And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Glorify God in
your body, and in
your spirit, which
are God's!


12. What has God promised people who obey Him? Ex. 15:26

Ex. 15:26

²⁶ And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.

^{3 John: 2} Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

[Note: Though at times we may have infirmities which God does not choose to heal (see 2 Cor. 12:7-9), yet by following God's counsels we will have better health, and nothing will happen to us but what is for our best good; and ultimately we will be perfectly healed when Jesus restores His kingdom! 3 John 2]



- **Notes:** There are some texts which, when taken out of context, could be “twisted to our own destruction” (2 Peter 3:16). Jesus said that “Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth” (Matt. 15:11). But Jesus was not talking about food. He was not contradicting Scripture. The Pharisees He was addressing were not questioning food at all, but their human tradition of ritual washing before eating (verses 2, 20). Peter certainly did not understand Jesus to be changing the health laws, for years later he was given a vision of “all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. And a voice came to him, ‘Rise, Peter; kill and eat.’ But Peter said, ‘Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean’” (Acts 10:12-14). Perhaps there were lizards, cats, tigers, vultures, snakes, dogs—we probably would have asked to be excused too! But the vision was symbolic. Peter knew that. After the vision he “wondered within himself what the vision meant” (verse 17). And then he was “shown” that he “should not call any man common or unclean” (verse 28). The Jews called the Gentiles unclean dogs, but the time had come to take the gospel to these Gentiles. Read the whole account in Acts 10:9 to 11:18. Romans 14:2 says that “He who is weak eats only vegetables.” Meat was offered to idols, and those who were weak in the faith still superstitiously avoided food offered to idols. See 1 Cor. 8:4-11.



**N
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What is a NEW START?

**Nutrition
Exercise
Water**

**Sunshine
Temperance
Air
Rest
Trust in God**



Commitment: Today Jesus is asking us to respect our body-temples so that we may have clearer minds and better health, and may be able to render Him more faithful service. Will you ask Him to give you power over everything that tends to defile the body?

