

LWML Texas District

October 17

Meditation

Cleanliness in God's House

“Look at those spots on the windows! Who cleans this place anyway?” “Gross! The coffee grounds are still in the trash from last Sunday!” “Whose turn was it to take out the trash from the nursery?! The whole building stinks because of those disgusting used diapers.”

Have you ever heard statements like those on a Sunday, or when you enter your church? Maybe you have even been the person to say it.

God walked with Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. God visited Abraham as angels and strangers. God spoke to the prophets in dreams. God even dwelled in a tent with the Israelites as they wandered in the desert, and until the temple was built by Solomon.

Then, after the destruction of the first temple, a second was built by Herod, and destroyed yet again in 70 A.D. In 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 we read, *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*

Contextually, the verses are speaking about fleeing from sexual immorality. Very clearly though it states our bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit dwells within us. We have become united with Christ. We are His workmanship.

How are we caring for God's dwelling place? Not just where we worship corporately with others, but where He dwells within us. Are we feeding our minds with His Word?

Are we following His directive from Deuteronomy 6:4-9, *“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates”*?

God meant for us to focus on Him, and everything else will fall into place with Him as our focus. When our priority is following God's will, filling our minds with His Word, we will see how much easier loving our neighbor can be. It is also amazing how much better our bodies work when we eat healthy foods, drink plenty of water, exercise, work hard, and get enough sleep. We then have the energy to do the work God has laid out before us. We are taking care of His temple.

So, the question becomes, how does God's house look: is it clean, presentable, reliable, and ready for worship? The most beautiful part of the Gospel is Christ coming down to dwell with us, as a real man. He took on our sins so we would not have to.

He died for us, even for our messy temples of the Holy Spirit. He made room for us in His perfect dwelling in heaven for those who believe in Jesus as their Savior. The great news is we are forgiven through Christ.

Now we can confess our sins, and know they are forgiven. God empowers us with the Holy Spirit to start fresh with a new clean temple of God.

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Published by LWML Texas District Christian Life Committee, 2022
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