



“My Life – God’s Canvas”
January 15, 2006
My Body Belongs to God
Pastor Tom Shirk

But they first gave themselves to the Lord. 2 Corinthians 8:5

God desires to make your life a work of art; a beautiful “Masterpiece” for Him.

1. Our body is temple where God personally dwells.

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body. 1 Corinthians 6:19,20

2. Our body is on an irreversible, inevitable course of decay.

Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven. For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened. 2 Corinthians 4:16, 5:1-4

3. Our body will be changed in order that we may live with God in heaven.

Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. 1 Corinthians 15:51-53

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.
Philippians 3:20, 21

4. Until then, our body, with all its appetites, must be brought under control.

All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything. Food is for the stomach, and the stomach is for food; but God will do away with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord; and the Lord is for the body. 1 Corinthians 6:12, 13



Our appetites are part of God's design for us



We are not ruled by our appetites, but by God who dwells in us



Self control and even self denial are hallmarks in a life where He is Master

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
1 Corinthians 3:16

For your LIFEGROUP:

1. Lament together about the ways you've experienced the "decaying" of your physical body!
2. Now name 8-10 ways you can glorify God with your body.
3. See how Peter thought of his "tent" and his departure in 2 Peter 1:12-15. If your departure was soon, what would you want to do first?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 6:12 and 10:23. According to these verses, many things which are not explicitly prohibited are "permissible" for us. But discuss the warnings about exercising our "freedom" (which you'll see in the surrounding verses.)
5. This week, study the rigorous requirements to enter the holy place in the temple as seen in Leviticus 16. That holy dwelling place for God is now YOU!