

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Luke 2:52.**
- B. God made man out of the dust of the ground and it was good. This human body is not bad or evil by creation of God.
- C. The greatest commandment, includes the serving of God with all our strength (Mk. 12:30).
- D. Jesus, as a young boy, grew in many ways, while in Nazareth. One way according to Lk. 2 :52 was in stature.
- E. Even Paul makes the claim that while spiritual training was of the greatest importance, physical training is of some value (1Tim. 4:8).
- F. Jesus has told us that as long as we seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness that we need not worry about what we shall have to eat, drink, or wear. Because of this blessing we can think how to properly serve God with our bodies (Mt. 6:25; 6:33).
- G. But our bodies can give us trouble, if we are not careful. They can cause us to sin, and we need to have the same attitude that Paul had when he said he had to beat his body to keep it in subjection (1Cor. 9:27).
- H. Today we shall take a look at four areas of concentration. Pleasing God Physically:
 - 1. In Our Daily Living.
 - 2. By Modest Apparel.
 - 3. By Correct Sexual Response.
 - 4. By Preparing For The Resurrection.

I. PLEASING GOD PHYSICALLY... **IN OUR DAILY LIVING.**

- A. Again we need to emphasize that the body is of great value to God. God knows that the way we treat and use our bodies can determine our eternal destiny (Mt. 6:25).
- B. The body, or parts of the body can literally "trap" us in sin. In Mt. 5:29 the word "offend" or "cause to stumble" is the Greek word *skandalon* which means the trigger or center point of an animal trap. Jesus is telling us that the body can trap us in sin (Mt. 5:29).
- C. But just serving God physically is not enough. It is not an end in and of itself. We serve God with our bodies because of our love for Him, His Son, the brethren, and the lost (1Cor. 13:3).
I would rather see a sermon than hear one.
My father quit smoking so that I wouldn't start.
- D. Our daily living must be a life guided by the Spirit (Rom. 8:13).
- E. The problems that are encountered in trying to live' a Spirit led life come about because there are two natures in man: the flesh and the Spirit (Rom. 7:24,25).
- F. The bottom line is that our entire life becomes a living sacrifice (killing off the desires of the flesh) with our bodies (Rom. 12:1,2; Gal. 2:20).
This call mean the abstaining from over-eating, proper nourishment, proper sleep, abstaining from drug abuse (coffee--sleeping pill syndrome), the styles and kinds of clothes we wear (train the kids early), the amount of make-up and perfume, etc.

II. PLEASING GOD PHYSICALLY... **BY MODEST APPAREL.**

- A. As mentioned above we please God physically by knowing what to wear, and what not to wear.
- B. Women should adorn themselves "properly" (NASV) or "modestly" (KJV). The Greek term is *prepo* which means suitable or what is fitting (1Tim. 2:9).
- C. The priests of the Old Testament were warned by God not to go uncovered (Exo. 20:26). We are priests of God today; according to 1Pet. 2:9 and should see the principle to be applied here. God does not want His servants to be naked, or show nakedness.

- D. Today, the movies, plays, magazines, and books have the greatest influence on what clothing is in style and what is out of style. Christians are to be different from the world, which means we can't always dress like them.
- E. Many clothes have been designed today to turn-on the opposite sex. Designer jeans, shirts, and blouses all add to the sexual awareness, that leads to or causes sin. We are to abstain from the very appearance of evil (1Th. 5:22). This warning should help us choose the kinds, and styles of clothes we wear.
- F. We can cause others to sin by the way we dress (Lk. 17:1,2) warns us that we sin when we cause others to sin. Even though we may be fully confident that a particular item of clothing is proper if it causes another to sin it is wrong for us to wear it.

III. PLEASING GOD PHYSICALLY...**BY CORRECT SEXUAL RESPONSE.**

- A. God has given us sex so that it might satisfy our bodies within the marriage relationship. All sexual activity within the marriage is permitted by God, while all sexual activity outside the marriage is prohibited by God.
- B. We live in a very sex-saturated society, with Satan perverting and using sex to cause people to sin.
- C. Hebrews 13:4 says, "Let the marriage be held in honor among all, let the marriage bed be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge."
- D. We sin with our bodies when we have God-prohibited sex. It starts with the heart, and where the heart is so is our treasure. Where the heart is the body will follow (Romans 1:24; Mt. 6:21).
- E. Fornication is a sin committed by the body, against the body. We are joined to Christ when we become members of the church (added to it); if we join ourselves to someone to whom we are not married then we have adulterated our relationship with Christ (1Cor. 6:15-20).
- F. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit. Since the Spirit dwells in us, we are then commanded to glorify God with our bodies (1Cor. 6:20).
- G. Another point that needs to be mentioned is that of adultery that is committed in the heart. Although it is a mental process, it is triggered by physical means (remember back to Mt. 5:29). Bad company corrupts good morals 9 times out of 10! (1Cor. 15:33).

IV. PLEASING GOD PHYSICALLY... **BY PREPARING FOR THE RESURRECTION.**

- A. Jesus told the Jews that He would die and then be raised from dead, as recorded in Jn. 2:19-22. We too will be resurrected if we die before Jesus comes again. We must then prepare for that resurrection.
- B. Our body is very important when we talk about the resurrection to come. Our citizenship (conversational, KJV) is in heaven. We need to have a body worthy of the glory that is to come.
- C. What we do with our bodies in this life, will determine our eternity in the next life. Paul makes this very clear in 1Cor. 15:35-58. He goes into a long discussion of the differences between the natural body that will die, and the spiritual body that will be raised. The key lies in v58 (1Cor. 15:58).
- D. In the 2nd Corinthian letter Paul tells us of the relationship of living in this earthly tent (our bodies) and how we long for our heavenly tent. We shall be "clothed with a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (2Cor. 5:1-10).
- E. Let us then have the attitude and lifestyle that Peter wrote about in 1Pet. 2:11.

CONCLUSION: WHAT TO DO NOW.

- A. Recognize that there is a difference between the body, soul, and spirit. And that it is possible for Satan to kill both the body and soul in hell (1Th. 5:23; Mt. 10:28).
- B. Recognize that devotion to books and those things not of God is wearisome to the body. The conclusion of the matter is to fear God, and keep His commandments (Eccl. 12:12).

- C. Recognize that we need to kill off the old self to be pleasing to God (Rom. 6:6).
- D. Recognize that once we have become a Christian that we are still at war with sin, and we need to live our lives for Christ (Gal. 2:20; 1Jn. 1:6,7).
- E. The conclusion of the matter is:
 - 1. We need to please God physically in our daily living (Rom. 12:1,2).
 - 2. We need to please God physically in our modest apparel (1Tim. 2:9,10).
 - 3. We need to please God physically by the correct sexual response (Heb. 13:4).
 - 4. We need to please God physically by preparing our bodies for the resurrection (2Cor. 5 :1-10).