

Renewed Bodies

All Things New #4 | 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

January 23, 2022

Scripture Reading | 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Pre-Sermon Remarks

- Looking at the theme of renewal | Rev 21:5 “Behold, I make all things new!”
- 4 weeks on us: gospel (new creation), minds (Rom 12), hearts (Ps. 23)
- Next 4 weeks on relationships: marriage, parenting, singleness, friendships
- Today: focus on the body | theology, purpose, stewardship, **not a diet plan**

PRAYER

Introduction

Psalm 139 ¹⁴ I will praise you because I have been remarkably and wondrously made. Your works are wondrous, and I know this very well.

- Ditch #1: worship of the body
 - Ancient Greece, naked paintings/statues, worship of the body
 - Modern: sports, pop music, tik tok/instagram, pornographic influence
 - In the lack of a transcendent spirituality, this is an easy path to follow

Isaiah 40 All humanity is grass, and all its goodness is like the flower of the field. ⁷ The grass withers, the flowers fade when the breath of the Lord blows on them; indeed, the people are grass.

- Ditch #2: denigration of the body
 - **Anthony Hoekema** [In Plato’s teaching] the soul is...considered a superior substance, inherently indestructible and therefore immortal, whereas the body is of inferior substance, mortal, and doomed for total destruction. Hence the body is thought of as a tomb for the soul, which is really better off without the body.
 - **Edward Donnelly** Unfortunately, this poison of anti-materialism has seeped into Christian thinking, so that many believers are unconscious Platonists. Their views of ‘the world’, ‘the flesh’, and even ‘the soul’ have been distorted by an instinctive hyper-spirituality...For Plato was quite wrong in claiming that the spiritual alone is good and that what is material is necessarily inferior. The Bible is uncompromisingly against such dualism and we must give full weight to the statement that, ‘God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good’ (Gen. 1:31).
 - When the shadows of this life have gone, I’ll fly away. Like a bird from prison bars has flown, I’ll fly away.
 - Even my beloved C.S. Lewis said “you *are* a soul, you *have* a body.” | WRONG!

Big idea: The hope of renewal offered in the gospel includes our bodies

Systematic theology: 1) Creation theology, 2) Redemption theology, 3) Practical theology

Creation Theology

1. Dust and spirit | Genesis 2:7
 - a. Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being.
 - b. Humility: dust. Even our skin tones bear this reality
 - c. Glory: spirited by God himself!!
 - d. Contingent: we can't exist alone | When God takes back his breath
2. Image of God | Genesis 1:26-27
 - a. Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth." So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.
 - b. Three general ways people understand this (HT: Joshua Swamidass)
 - i. Attributes | We are like God (intellect, emotions, creativity)
 - ii. Role | We represent God
 - iii. Relationship | We know God
 - c. Physicality? God appearing in human form in OT, Jesus in the incarnation.
 - i. 1 Cor 11 - head coverings, physicality, image of God
 - d. Either way, our bodies are essential to our image bearing
 - i. God didn't create a soul, then look for a tupperware to put it in
3. Male and female | Genesis 1:27
 - a. Time here prohibits a full treatment, but this is an essential aspect of our being
 - b. Culture is trying hard to sort things out:
 - i. Trans: there is no difference between a trans woman and biological woman
 - ii. Feminism: history is biological men subjugating biological women
 - iii. LGB: attracted to people with the same biology makeup
 - iv. *No rock-throwing here, meet people with compassion
 - v. **But I believe that the Scripture offers us a better way to understand M/F
 - c. Overlap and distinction | Biology and psychology
 - i. Too much distinction vs. collapsing
 - ii. Many cultural definitions do not line up with Bible
 1. "Real men don't cry" | tell that to David and Jonathan, Paul, Jesus
 2. "Woman's place is in the home" | check Proverbs 31, or Lydia
 3. "There is no difference between men and women"
 - a. Physical strength, emotional empathy
 - d. Maleness and femaleness are not arbitrary, they are divinely ordained
 - i. The "be fruitful and multiply" requires this binary
 - e. **RECOMMENDED** *What God Has to Say About our Bodies* by Sam Allberry

Redemption Theology

1. Present decay | 2 Corinthians 4:7-5:5
 - a. Jars of clay...carry the death of Jesus in our bodies...our outer person is wasting away...earthly tent is being destroyed...groaning in this tent

- b. Things are not as they are supposed to be! Not only sin, but our bodies.
 - c. We were meant to eat of the tree of life and abide in God, cut off from that life
- 2. Redemptive body | Colossians 1:21-23
 - a. ²¹ Once you were alienated and hostile in your minds as expressed in your evil actions. ²² But now he has reconciled you by his physical body through his death, to present you holy, faultless, and blameless before him—²³ if indeed you remain grounded and steadfast in the faith and are not shifted away from the hope of the gospel that you heard. This gospel has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and I, Paul, have become a servant of it.
 - b. Took on the body of dust > knelt in the dust to forgive > was buried in the dust
 - c. RAISED IMPERISHABLE!
- 3. Future glory | 1 Corinthians 15:20-22
 - a. ²⁰ But as it is, Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead also comes through a man. ²² For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.
 - b. The hope of the gospel includes our physical bodies | Prayer for healing? Yes!

Practical Theology

- 1. Your body is not your own | 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
 - a. ¹⁹ Don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought at a price. So glorify God with your body.
 - b. Creation: borrowed breath/spirit | Redemption: purchased by Christ
- 2. Glorify God with your body | 1 Corinthians 6:12-13
 - a. ¹² "Everything is permissible for me," but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me," but I will not be mastered by anything. ¹³ "Food is for the stomach and the stomach for food," and God will do away with both of them. However, the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.
 - b. Flee sin: sexual sin, gluttony, laziness
 - c. Embodied worship! Hands, kneel, communion. In-person worship.
- 3. Live as part of the body | 1 Corinthians 12:21-31
 - a. BOOK: *Fearfully and Wonderfully* by Paul Brand and Philip Yancey
 - i. One cell in the larger body

Stewarding the Body

- 1. Fasting | Mastery of desires
- 2. Training | Formation of habits
- 3. Resting | Remember God's work
- 4. Feast | Remember your future