



## Stewardship Part 2: Your Temple

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### **P**review

Our body is God's temple! We must be good stewards of His temple.

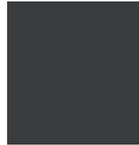
### **P**raise

Toss a paper ball to a student. That student must share something he/she loves about God, then pass the ball to someone else. Continue as time permits.

### **P**arable

Imagine this with me for a moment: A bride puts on a wedding dress at her house. While walking through the yard to her car, she drags the train through the grass. On the way to the venue she is hungry, so she goes through a drive through. Mustard and grease drip on her dress as she eats her burger. Along the way, she runs over a nail and gets a flat tire. With no one there to help her, she changes the tire herself, wiping her dirty hands on her dress.

Can you imagine what that dress will look like by the time she reaches the venue? How do you think that will make the groom feel?



## Present

God wants us to take great care to present ourselves to Him and others the best way that we can. **I Corinthians 3:16-17**: “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.”

If we are to be good stewards, we must honor God by taking care of our bodies. We are commanded in **I Corinthians 6:20** to glorify God in our bodies and spirit. How do we do that?

First, we must take care of ourselves physically. It’s not about being slender; it’s about putting things in our body that are good for us. This also means avoiding some things altogether. Drugs, alcohol, and tobacco are all addictive and destructive.

Second, we must be mindful of what we wear and how we carry ourselves. It may be fashionable to reveal our bodies or wear tight-fitting clothing, but if we do that, we draw the attention away from God. **I Peter 3:3-4 (ESV)**: “Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is very precious.”

Just as important as what you wear is how you carry yourself. Are you approachable? Are you kind? Even when we don’t feel like it or we’re having a bad day, we must put our own desires aside and reflect Christ. **Galatians 2:20**: “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

Third, we must keep our thoughts under control. Our thought life matters! **Proverbs 23:7**: “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.”

Finally, we must control our senses and actions to guard our hearts:

- We control our SIGHT by only placing things in front of our eyes that are pleasing to God. **Psalms 101:3**: “I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes.”
- We control our HEARING by only listening to those things that provide positive messages. **Isaiah 51:1**: “Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord.”
- We control our WORDS by speaking things that are kind and uplifting. **Ephesians 4:29 (ESV)**: “Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.”
- We control our ACTIONS by controlling our sight, hearing, and words!



Let's review:

- How do we take care of ourselves physically?
- What does it mean to be modest?
- Why is it important to keep our thoughts under control?
- How do we guard our hearts?

## **P**ray

Pray with the students for God to help them to glorify Him in their bodies by making good decisions, being modest, controlling their thoughts, and guarding their hearts.

## **P**lus

Instruct the students to write down the four categories of being a good steward of their temples. Ask them to write 1-2 things under each category they can do this week to improve in those areas.