

# Obedience

## Introduction

God's ultimate plan is for all of humanity of all time to know the truth and to obey it.

1Ti 2:3 For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;  
1Ti 2:4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Jas 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth *it* not, to him it is sin

Rom 1:4 And declared *to be* the Son of God with power, according to The spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

Rom 1:5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, **for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:**

As God is dragging us towards himself, we become quite confused about what exactly we are commanded to do. We realize that we are no longer under the Old Covenant and begin to see the spirit behind the letters as the New Testament explains.

Heb 7:18 NKJV For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness,  
Heb 7:19 for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, there is the bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.

Joh 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

We become aware that we must clean the inside of the cup and also realize that all the good works we thought we were doing only amounted to filthy rags in God's sight.

Mat 23:25 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

Mat 23:26 Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

Isa 64:6 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our

righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

The next natural step is to disregard the physical and only focus on the spiritual and inward application of God's word. While it is good to focus on the inward application of God's word, but to disregard the outward physical application, is called turning grace into lasciviousness.

Jud 1:4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, **turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness**, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

When God shows us grace, also called his favor, he opens our eyes to see the spirit behind the letters. There is a very narrow path that leads to life, and we all must fall off of both sides to find that narrow way. When we see the spirit we get excited and disregard the physical, which leads to us becoming filthy and lascivious. Here is the word translated "lascivious".

## G766

ἀσελγεία aselgeia *as-elg'-i-a*

From a compound of **G1** (as a negative particle) and a presumed **σελγής** selgeṣ (of uncertain derivation, but apparently meaning *continent*); *licentiousness* (sometimes including other vices): - filthy, lasciviousness, wantonness.

This is similar to what happened in the Church at Corinth. Paul preached the Gospel to them, but somehow they did not understand that physical fornication was a problem.

1Co 5:1 It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

1Co 5:2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

2Co 12:21 *And* lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and *that* I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and **lasciviousness** which they have committed.

Just like the Corinthian Church, we all in different ways disregard outward obedience and fall into lasciviousness. It is very important that we learn from this grievous error and learn to obey God, because it is our good works that witnesses to the World.

Mat 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, **that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

1Pe 2:12 **NKJV** **having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles,** that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, **glorify God in the day of visitation.**

Our good works are no longer self righteous because we know that it is God working in us and that they are not the result of own free will.

Php 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Php 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

### **Rightfully Dividing the Covenants**

One of the major reasons that we turn the grace of God into lasciviousness is that we do not understand what the New Covenant is commanding us to do. So let us examine the two Covenants.

Hos 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Joh 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Under the Old Covenant, God's commands were very clear and literal. Israel was told to pay very close attention to the voice of the Lord and to do exactly what they were commanded to do.

Exo 15:26 And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I *am* the LORD that healeth thee.

Israel was given the 10 commandments, along with all of the sacrificial laws, and many other commands. When the LORD said, "do not murder" he meant literally do not murder, likewise when he said "go destroy this foreign nation" he literally meant go attack and kill the people of that nation. Israel constantly had a problem with following after the gods and traditions of other nations and disobeying the LORD.

Deu 6:13 Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name.

Deu 6:14 Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people Which *are* round about you;

Deu 6:15 (For the LORD thy God *is* a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the LORD thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth.

Deu 6:16 Ye shall not tempt the LORD your God, as ye tempted *him* in Massah.

We are no longer under the Old Covenant. Everything that happened to Israel was written for our spiritual admonition. Not all of what was written in the Old Testament is to be literally kept in our physical lives today.

Heb 7:18 For there is verily **a disannulling of the commandment** going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof.

Heb 7:19 For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.

1Co 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: And **they are written for our admonition**, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

1Pe 1:12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

Christ makes it quite clear that the New Covenant is very different from the Old.

Mat 5:38 Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth:

Mat 5:39 But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

Mike Vinson' study below covers this topic in great detail.

<http://aionios.com/2011-12/the-law-of-moses-versus-the-law-of-the-spirit/>

The New Covenant is now the guide for how we are to conduct our physical lives. For example, we are no longer commanded literally stone those guilty of fornication.

Deu 22:23 If a damsel that is a virgin be betrothed unto an husband, and a man find her in the city, and lie with her;

Deu 22:24 Then ye shall bring them both out unto the gate of that city, and ye shall stone them with stones that they die; the damsel, because she cried not, being in the city; and the man, because he hath humbled his neighbour's wife: **so thou shalt put away evil from among you.**

Here is how we handle those guilty of fornication now.

1Co 5:1 It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

1Co 5:2 And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

1Co 5:3 For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed,

1Co 5:4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

1Co 5:5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

1Co 5:6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

1Co 5:7 **Purge out therefore the old leaven**, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

1Co 5:11 But now I have written unto you **not to keep company**, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.

1Co 5:12 For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? Do not ye judge them that are within?

1Co 5:13 But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

It is important to notice that the letter to the Corinthians did contain literal physical commands to keep regarding real life situations. Not to keep company with a fornicator means literally, do not spend time associating

with them. As we keep this physical command, it will teach us about the spiritual.

Rom 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his Eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

Fornication is intimacy outside of a marriage relationship. We are taught in the book of Ephesians that marriage is a symbol of Christ being married to the Church.

Eph 5:31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

Eph 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

So when we are disobedient to Christ and lust after things of the world, we are fornicators and adulterers.

1Jn 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1Jn 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

When we are given eyes to see our sin, we must purge out these sinful thoughts and actions from our lives, just as we are commanded to purge out physical fornicators from the fellowship. Just because we see the spirit behind the letters does not mean that we disregard the physical commands in the New Covenant.

Just because the Old Covenant is disannulled, does not mean that every physical command or instruction regarding wisdom written in the Old Testament is not applicable to our physical lives.

There are some commands from the Old Covenant that carry over to the New, such as, do not murder or steal. These are clearly witnessed in the New Testament.

1Pe 4:15 But let none of you suffer as a **murderer**, or as a **thief**, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

There is also a tremendous amount of practical wisdom in the Old Testament, especially in the book of Proverbs. The New Testament reveals what has been disannulled in the OT and what is still applicable. Here

are some examples.

Pro 15:22 Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.

The general principle of there being wisdom with a multitude of counselors is witnessed in the following verses in the NT.

Mat 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

Mat 18:16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

Mat 18:17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

Eph 3:10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places **might be known by the church** the manifold wisdom of God

The Church, also called the Body of Christ, is made up of many members. These members are the multitude of counselors that Solomon foreshadows in the book of Proverbs.

1Co 12:12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

Commands to not murder and steal also carry over to the physical commands of the NT, and now have a deeper spiritual application as well, that must be obeyed.

Mat 5:21 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

Mat 5:22 But I say unto you, that whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

These next verses are about stealing God's glory.

Isa 42:8 I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

Act 12:21 And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them.

Act 12:22 And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.

Act 12:23 And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, **because he gave not God the glory**: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

In summary, everything in the Old Testament has a spiritual application to our lives today. There are also both physical commands and practical words of wisdom written in the Old Testament that are applicable to our physical lives today.

It takes time and diligence to see through the sum of God's word what has been disannulled and what still applies today physically from the Old Testament. I encourage everyone to read Mike's study on the difference between the two Covenants.

<http://aionios.com/2011-12/the-law-of-moses-versus-the-law-of-the-spirit/>

With this principle in mind, we are going to examine a number of commands that we are given in the New Testament which must be kept in our outward physical lives.

### **Obeying the Laws of the Land**

Both Peter and Paul wrote to members of the Body of Christ about the importance of obeying the laws of the land and the leaders of the world that the LORD had placed over them. This obedience is an important witness to those around us.

1Pe 2:12 Having your conversation (way of life) honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

1Pe 2:13 **Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake:** whether it be to the king, as supreme;

1Pe 2:14 Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

We are to submit to every ordinance of man because the Lord has placed the Kings (rulers) of this world into their positions, and then causes them to place governors to punish those that break the laws of the land. Here is an

example.

Luk 3:1 Now in the fifteenth year of **the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea**, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene,

This verse in Luke describes the hierarchy that God put in place in Judea in Christ's time. Each country has their own hierarchy of leadership. Whatever it is, God has put in place that is what we must obey.

Paul makes this same point in his letter to Church in Rome.

Rom 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.  
Rom 13:2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

When we resist these authorities, we are resisting what God has appointed and we will incur judgment. There is an exception, and that is when God's commands contradict the laws of the land in which we live.

Here is a great example in Acts 5.

Act 5:27 **NKJV** And when they had brought them, they set *them* before the council. And the high priest asked them, Act 5:28 saying, "**Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name?** And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us!" Act 5:29 But Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said: "**We ought to obey God rather than men.**"

The governing authorities told Peter and the other Apostles to stop preaching the Gospel. This is clearly in direct contradiction with the word of God.

2Ti 4:1 **I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ**, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:

2Ti 4:2 **Preach the word!** Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

So what did the Apostles do? They disobeyed the governing authorities and followed God's word instead.

Act 5:29 But Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said: "**We ought to obey God rather than men.**"

Daniel Chapter 3 is another example of obeying God and not men.

Let's continue in Romans 13

Rom 13:3 **For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad.** Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good and you will receive his approval,

In most cases rulers are a terror to those who are disobedient. If we do not want to live in fear, then we must obey the laws and we will receive approval and live in peace.

Rom 13:4 for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.  
Rom 13:5 Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.

1Pe 2:14 Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

So we must obey our leaders, because they are servants of God to carry out his will, even though they do not realize that he is using them for this purpose. We do this to avoid God's wrath, for the sake of our conscience, which convicts us that disobeying these laws is wrong, and as a witness to others. We all must go through God's wrath, but after we have been chastened to forsake our evil ways, we should obey, so as to not incur more wrath by suffering as an evildoer.

1Pe 4:15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

1Pe 4:16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; But let him glorify God on this behalf.

We do not pick and choose on our own which laws to obey. We obey all of the laws of the land, unless they cause us to disobey the laws of Christ.

This is why we must obey these laws of the rulers God has appointed over us.

1Pe 2:12 Having your conversation (way of life) honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of

visitation.

1Pe 2:15 For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:

1Pe 2:16 As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.

1Pe 2:17 Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

One of the most common laws the people struggle with is paying taxes. We are clearly commanded to pay what is required. The word translated "tribute" below means taxes.

Rom 13:6 For for this cause pay ye **tribute** also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.

Rom 13:7 Render therefore to all their dues: **tribute to whom tribute** is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

Rom 13:8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

Luk 20:22 Is it lawful for us to give **tribute** unto Caesar, or no?

Luk 20:23 But he perceived their craftiness, and said unto them, Why tempt ye me?

Luk 20:24 Shew me a penny. Whose image and superscription hath it? They answered and said, Caesar's.

Luk 20:25 **And he said unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's.**

Luk 20:26 And they could not take hold of his words before the people: And they marvelled at his answer, and held their peace.

Here is another example where Christ tells Peter to pay the taxes that are required. Here the taxes are referred to as both tribute and custom.

Mat 17:24 And when they were come to Capernaum, they that Received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute?

Mat 17:25 He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers?

Mat 17:26 Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free.

Mat 17:27 Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and

when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money:  
that take, and give unto them for me and thee.

Even though we are the Children of God and he is the ruler of all things through Christ, we still must obey the laws that HE has put into place as a witness to the world around us.

Keep in mind that the little things matter. Things like speed limits, copyright laws, taxes, etc., are ordained by God to try us and to witness to the world through our obedience. This study will explain why obedience in the smallest matters is vitally important.

<http://aionios.com/2013-02/a-little-leaven/>

Luk 16:10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

It is common practice in many countries for citizens to violate certain laws of the land on a regular basis. It becomes acceptable and actually expected in many ways. We as followers of Christ should not cave into these pressures. We must obey the laws in place even if all of those around us are ignoring those laws. This is our witness as we are made a spectacle to the world.

1Pe 4:4 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:

1Co 4:9 For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: **for we are made a spectacle unto the world**, and to angels, and to men.

1Co 4:10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised.

We will be counted as fools when we follow the laws of the land to the letter. This is just one part of suffering for Christ.

It is not enough that we obey the laws of the land, we actually have to do so in such a way that we are giving honor and respect to those in authority.

Rom 13:7 Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, **fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.**

1Ti 6:1 Let all who are under a yoke as slaves regard their own masters as **worthy of all honor**, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled.

We honor our masters because we know that God is causing them to do everything they are doing. If we resist these masters when they are not causing us to disobey the laws of God, we are causing the name of God and the doctrine of Christ to be reviled and blasphemed. We must be living witnesses to these verses of scripture.

Mat 5:38 "You have heard that it was said, 'AN EYE FOR AN EYE AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.'

Mat 5:39 But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.

Mat 5:40 If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have *your* cloak also.

Mat 5:41 And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two.

Mat 5:42 Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.

Mat 5:43 "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.'

Mat 5:44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

Mat 5:45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

Mat 5:46 For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

Mat 5:47 And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more *than others*? Do not even the tax collectors do so?

Mat 5:48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Let me give a very recent example of someone suing for our tunic. I'm writing this study in March of 2013. Earlier this month private accounts in Cyprus banks holding more than 100,000 euros (\$139,000 US), had 9.9% of their value confiscated by the Cyprus government, while accounts with less than 100,000 euros lost 6.7%. Why did this happen? Let me explain.

The world today operates on what is called a "fractional reserve banking system". In the US for example a bank is only required to keep on hand about 10% of the money that their customers deposit at the banks. The other 90% can be loaned or invested how the bank sees fit. The reserve

requirements vary from country to country, some countries like New Zealand, Australia, England and Canada have NO reserve requirement at all.

This system works fine until the banks make bad investments and start losing lots of money. When a bank fails, they have to get money from somewhere, and that is typically the government or they take it from their customers. Cyprus conducted a "bail-in", by confiscating some of their account holders money.

The people of Cyprus are very angry right now at the evil that is being done to them. The natural reaction is to rant and rave and slander everyone that could possibly be responsible for this financial disaster. However, this is how we are commanded to respond to such a situation.

1Pe 2:18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, **but also to the froward.**

1Pe 2:19 For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.

1Pe 2:20 For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, Ye shall take it patiently? **but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.**

1Pe 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

I hope and pray that someone in Cyprus will read this study and be given eyes to see that GOD is the one taking their money, through the servants that he has put in charge of the Cyprus banks and government. There are certainly people in Cyprus who work hard for many years at an honest job to save money and then this happens. For those that have the knowledge of God, this is a part of suffering for Christ.

This very same thing could happen in any country in the world, and has already been discussed by many countries including the US, UK, and Canada.

As an example, the US president Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order 6102 on April 5th of 1933. This made it illegal to hold all but a small amount of gold. By May 1st of 1933, less than 30 days notice, US citizens were required to turn in their gold or face a \$10,000 fine (\$180,000 today), ten years in jail, or both. They were paid \$20 per ounce, but shortly thereafter the price was raised to \$35 an ounce, resulting in a substantial loss for everyone that was forced to sell their gold. The US government essentially confiscated 40% of the value of all gold in the US.

These kinds of situations are a serious trial of our faith. There are many

people in the world that are very aware of the great evils being done to citizens of virtually every country of the world, and they see the signs of far worse evil coming in the future. Their carnal response is to resist this evil, slander the leaders in every way possible, and encourage the people to revolt in many cases.

As followers of Christ we are commanded to respond very differently.

1Pe 2:17 Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God.  
Honour the king.

It is impossible for our flesh to honor the king when he is stealing from us. Only Christ working in us will cause us to be obedient to his commands.

The writer of Hebrews encourages us to "joyfully accept the plundering of our good", because we have an enduring possession in heaven.

Heb 10:32 But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, **you endured a great struggle with sufferings:**  
Heb 10:33 partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated;  
Heb 10:34 for you had compassion on me in my chains, **and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.**  
Heb 10:35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.  
Heb 10:36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:  
Heb 10:37 "FOR YET A LITTLE WHILE, AND HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME AND WILL NOT TARRY.  
Heb 10:38 NOW THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; BUT IF ANYONE DRAWS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM."

When God truly changes our heart to value his spiritual treasure more than physical riches, we will be able to agree with Paul when he writes the following.

1Ti 6:6 Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment,  
1Ti 6:7 for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.  
1Ti 6:8 But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.

There are numerous commands in the scriptures to store up treasure in heaven, not on the earth.

Joh 6:27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

Mat 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth And rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:  
Mat 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:  
Mat 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

This study will explain what and where is heaven.  
<http://aionios.com/2012-10/what-and-where-is-heaven/>

There still certainly is value in work and storing up during the times of harvest for the winter.

Pro 6:6 Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:  
Pro 6:7 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,  
Pro 6:8 **Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.**  
Pro 6:9 How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?  
Pro 6:10 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands To sleep:  
Pro 6:11 So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.

For us today, this means that it is good to have some savings, if the Lord grants us that ability. However we should not be concerned, if he does not provide for us in this way, nor should we make savings an idol and think that these riches will save us.

1Ti 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, **nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;**  
1Ti 6:18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

Mat 6:26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?  
Mat 6:27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?  
Mat 6:28 "So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin;

Mat 6:29 and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Mat 6:30 Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

Mat 6:31 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'

Mat 6:32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your Heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

Mat 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Mat 6:34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

As we saw earlier with the example of Cyprus and the US gold confiscation, our stored wealth can be demanded of us at any time. That makes this parable quite applicable to us today.

Luk 12:16 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully.

Luk 12:17 And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?'

Luk 12:18 So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and Build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.

Luk 12:19 And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." '

Luk 12:20 **But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'**

Luk 12:21 **"So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."**

We should trust in God and be willing share what we have with the body of Christ as God leads. The Lord will give us the faith and joy to share with others. Giving is not to be done out of guilt or compulsion.

2Co 9:6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

2Co 9:7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

Here is what we should do now, knowing that God is working all things for our good and his glory.

1Ti 2:1 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,

1Ti 2:2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.

We must pray for our leaders or we will become bitter and angry towards them. We must gladly part with our physical goods, that we may live a quiet and peaceable life. Resisting the evil of this world will only fill us with anger and bitterness.

I personally have suffered great evil at the hands of US pharmaceutical companies and doctors. I took a medication while in the 8th grade for acne, which ended up causing major digestive issues that I still suffer from to this day. In recent years, there have been many lawsuits filed due to the severe side effects of this drug. In addition, I had a back surgery where the doctor damaged a nerve in my back and caused my right calf and foot to be partially paralyzed. I found out a few years later that this doctor had lied to many patients and ended up with 19 malpractice lawsuits. In both cases I was given bad information and suffered greatly for it.

God has given me eyes to see that no man is responsible for what has happened to me. It was God himself working everything after the counsel of his own will for my good and his glory.

Eph 1:11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,

It took time, but eventually I was able to see the good that God was working through my suffering. I would never have been able to see the things of the Spirit if I was physically healthy, because my body was such an idol. In the same way, many people will lose great amounts of physical wealth for their own good.

I can truly say that I have lived and am living these verses in proverbs.

Pro 30:7 Two things I ask of you; deny them not to me before I die:  
Pro 30:8 Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me,  
Pro 30:9 lest I be full and deny you and say, "Who is the LORD?" or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.

The Lord has restored my health to a degree, and given me spiritual riches beyond what I ever thought possible.

However, while our goods are being plundered, there is a great temptation to grumble and complain. The following verses describe what our carnal nature desires to do.

2Pe 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, And to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:  
2Pe 2:10 But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and **despise government**. Presumptuous *are they*, selfwilled, **they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities**.

Jud 1:8 Likewise also these *filthy* dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, **and speak evil of dignities**.

Jud 1:9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, **durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee**.

We are not to despise governments, nor to speak evil of those ruling over us. Rather we should obey in quietness and say "the Lord rebuke thee". In due time God will bring judgment upon all ungodliness and avenge of all our enemies.

Rom 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give Place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; **I will repay, saith the Lord**.

Rom 12:20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

Rom 12:21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

We will all commit the trespass of speaking evil of our leaders, but we must become obedient to the following verses.

Php 2:14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

Php 2:15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

Let's take a closer look at the Greek words for murmurings and disputings.

## Murmuring

### G1112

Γογγυσμός goggusmos *gong-goos-mos'*

From [G1111](#); a *grumbling*: - grudging, murmuring.

Joh 7:12 And there was much **murmuring** among the people concerning him: for some said, He is a good man: others said, Nay; but he deceiveth the people.

Act 6:1 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a **murmuring** of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.

1Pe 4:8 NKJV And above all things have fervent love for one another, For "LOVE WILL COVER A MULTITUDE OF SINS."

1Pe 4:9 Be hospitable to one another without **grumbling**.

When the Hebrew scriptures were translated into Greek, the same word G1112 is used in the following verses of the OT.

Exo 16:8 And Moses said, This shall be, when the LORD shall give you In the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full; for that the LORD heareth your **murmurings** which ye **murmur** against him: and what are we? your **murmurings** are not against us, but against the LORD.

Num 17:10 And the LORD said to Moses, "Bring Aaron's rod back before the Testimony, to be kept as a sign against the rebels, that you may put their **complaints** away from Me, lest they die."

Rather than murmuring and complaining against God, we should do the following.

Php 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

Php 4:7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Luk 22:42 saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."

## Disputings

### G1261

Διαλογισμός dialogismos *dee-al-og-is-mos'*

From G1260; *discussion*, that is, (internal) *consideration* (by implication *purpose*), or (external) *debate*: - dispute, doubtful (-ing), imagination, reasoning, thought.

Luk 9:46 ESV An **argument** arose among them as to which of them  
Was the greatest.

1Ti 2:8 ESV I desire then that in every place the men should pray,  
Lifting holy hands without anger or **quarreling**;

Mat 15:19 For out of the heart proceed evil **thoughts**, murders,  
adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

This same word is used in the Greek translation of the Old Testament.

Psa 94:11 The LORD knoweth the **thoughts** of man, that they are  
vanity.

When we are murmuring and complaining against God, this will also cause us to quarrel and argue with the body of Christ. The Corinthian church was not in agreement with Christ's doctrine in many ways and thus had divisions and quarreling among them.

1Co 1:10 I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus  
Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you,  
but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.  
1Co 1:11 For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there  
is quarreling among you, my brothers.

The Greek word for quarreling in verse 11 is different than G1261, but has a similar meaning. As Christ gives us each the mind of Christ, we will come into agreement with God and each other in due time.

Php 2:2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love,  
being of one accord, of one mind.

## **Roles and conduct of Men and Women**

We have already written extensively on the roles of men and women in the Church. The studies found at the following link cover in great detail the function of the woman in the body.

<http://aionios.com/women-in-the-body/>

This study is going to focus on some of the physical commands we are given in the New Testament regarding the outward conduct of men and women. When these commands are obeyed in our physical lives, they manifest the inward condition of our hearts.

The verses below are from the book of 1 Corinthians where Paul is setting in order a disorderly gathering of believers. He is first going to explain a Spiritual truth, and then show how that truth is manifest in physical conduct in the Church.

**1Co 11:3** But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

Paul is explaining the proper relationship between men and women, which reveals the relationship between Christ and God, and then Christ and his Church.

**Eph 5:31** For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

**Eph 5:32** **This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.**

It is very important that this physical pattern be obeyed, because it is being used by God to teach us spiritual truths.

**Rom 1:20** **For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made,** even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

If we are disobedient in the physical pattern of men and women, then we will also be disobedient in our Spiritual relationship to God and Christ. The physical is used to teach us and to manifest the current condition of our hearts.

**Mat 7:16** **Ye shall know them by their fruits.** Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

Luk 6:45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: **for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.**

Now Paul is going to explain how obedience to this Spiritual order is manifest in our physical lives.

1Co 11:4 Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head.

1Co 11:5 But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven.

1Co 11:6 For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if It be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.

1Co 11:7 For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, **forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.**

1Co 11:8 For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man.

1Co 11:9 Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.

1Co 11:10 For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head **because of the angels.**

So a woman needs to have her head covered, because it is a physical manifestation of her Spiritual submission to Christ. This same Spiritual truth is manifest in her submission to her husband. Paul goes on to say that her head is to be covered because of angels. This seems quite confusing and out of context at first, until we look at the previous two times in this same letter that Paul mentions angels.

1 Co 4:9 For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: **for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.**

1Co 6:2 **Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world?** and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

1Co 6:3 **Know ye not that we shall judge angels?** how much more things that pertain to this life?

1Co 6:4 If then ye have judgments of things pertaining to this life, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.

We are to be Christ's Ambassadors, living spectacles of his Spiritual truths. The word for spectacle is also translated as "theatre". So God is putting on a

play about his glory, and we are the actors and actresses representing his truths. So, women having their heads covered, is a part of this spectacle to angels. We will also be used one day to judge angels and teach them these Spiritual truths that we are learning now during our physical lives.

Paul goes on to explain that this 'covering' is actually the length of one's hair.

1Co 11:13 Judge in yourselves: is it comely (right, fit) that a woman Pray unto God uncovered?

1Co 11:14 Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, **if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?**

1Co 11:15 **But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.**

So in the Church of God, **it does matter** how long someone's hair is, because it is a physical representation of the proper order in the Spirit. There are no specific descriptions in the bible of what is considered "long" or "short" regarding hair. Therefore, I will speak by permission and not by commandment to give some guidance on this topic, just like Paul did in 1 or 7 regarding marriage.

1Co 7:6 **But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment.**

1Co 7:7 For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that.

If we want to be good ambassadors for Christ, then let's do all in our power to be above reproach. Men, keep your hair short enough so that no reasonable person could ever accuse you of having long hair, and women keep your hair long enough so that no one will accuse you of having short hair. Let us also be compassionate towards one another, and recognize that sometimes God ordains physical issues that cause a woman to lose her hair or not be able to grow it long.

Keep in mind that no matter how diligent we are, someone will always falsely accuse us.

Luk 7:33 For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and ye say, He hath a devil.

Luk 7:34 The Son of man is come eating and drinking; and ye say, behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners!

Paul then concludes this topic by writing the following:

1Co 11:16 But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.

The Churches that were orderly followed these physical commands. If we want to argue that hair length does not matter, then we are arguing with the Word of God and are well on the way to turning the grace of God into lasciviousness. Always remember that physical obedience is simply a physical manifestation of a Spiritual truth. That is why these seemingly trivial things matter a great deal.

These truths about hair are also witnessed in the Old Testament. Sampson had great strength due to his long hair, which symbolized his strength in the flesh. However after his head was shaved, God gave him greater strength than he ever had with long hair and killed more Philistines in his death than during his life.

Jdg 16:30 And Samson said, Let me die with the Philistines. And he bowed himself with *all his* might; and the house fell upon the lords, and upon all the people that *were* therein. **So the dead which he slew at his death were more than *they* which he slew in his life.**

The same is true for us in the Spirit, when our head is shaved spiritually causing us to die to the flesh, we are actually given far greater power to overcome the giants in our land. This Spiritual truth was revealed by a man, Sampson, having short hair.

### **Outward Adorning**

Peter also links Spiritual obedience to certain outward actions of women in 1 Peter 3.

1Pe 3:1 Likewise, ye wives, *be* in subjection to your own husbands; that, If any obey not the word, they also may without the word be **won** (G2770) by the conversation of the wives;  
1Pe 3:2 While they behold your chaste conversation *coupled* with fear.

Peter is teaching women how to win over their unconverted husbands. Here are two examples of the Greek word translated as "won" above. The first example is Paul "gaining" others for Christ, and the second is Paul "winning" Christ for himself.

1Co 9:18 What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.  
1Co 9:19 For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself

servant unto all, that I might **gain** (G2770) the more.

Php 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may **win** (G2770) Christ,

The husbands are to be won over by the chaste "conversation" of their wives. This does not mean their words, it means their way of life.

Eph 4:22 That ye put off concerning the **former conversation** the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

Eph 4:23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

Eph 4:24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created In righteousness and true holiness.

Here are a few different translations of 1 Peter 3:2 and Ephesians 4:22

1Pe 3:2 NKJV when they observe your **chaste conduct** accompanied by fear.

Eph 4:22 NKJV that you put off, concerning your **former conduct**, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,

1Pe 3:2 CLV being spectators of your **pure behavior** in fear,

Eph 4:22 CLV to put off from you, as regards your **former behavior**, The old humanity which is corrupted in accord with its seductive desires,

The fear Peter mentions is the fear of the Lord, reverence and respect for his commands and power.

See the study below for more on fear.

<http://aionios.com/2013-02/fear-part-1/>

So what is it that a husband is going to see in his believing wife that is so powerful, which is used by God to win him to the faith of Jesus Christ. Peter tells us in the very next verses.

1Pe 3:3 Whose adorning let it not be that **outward** (G1855) *adorning* of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;

The old way of life that the wife is to put off, is the focus on her outward appearance, hair, jewelry, clothing, etc. This is the natural inclination of the

flesh, and is manifest more prominently in women. However, as we live by every word, men certainly focus on the outside of the cup as well. I have been quite guilty of this in the past through an obsession with fitness.

The word Peter uses for "outward" is the same word used by Matthew in the following verse for "outside" of the cup.

Mat 23:25 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the **outside** (G1855) of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

So, husbands of believing wives should notice a drastic change. The woman of God is concerned about the condition of her heart, which is manifest through a meek and quiet Spirit as they submit themselves to their husbands.

1Pe 3:4 But *let it be* the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, *even the ornament* of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

1Pe 3:5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, Who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:

1Pe 3:6 Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.

This does not mean that women of God totally disregard their physical appearance. We all need to be diligent to take care of our temple. In the scriptures cleanliness is symbolic of righteousness, while being dirty is symbolic of sin. Peter is telling women to focus on their Spirit and not the outside of their temple. The same goes for men as well.

For example, Paul tells Timothy that physical exercise does profit us, just not nearly as much as Godliness.

1Ti 4:8 For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

The question is where is our treasure? Do we value the outside of the cup or this hidden man of the heart? How we spend our time, energy, and money will reveal what we truly treasure.

Mat 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

Mat 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:  
Mat 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Husbands of believing wives will notice this change if it has in fact taken place. For example if a woman dresses very provocatively, what does this say about her spiritual condition? It says she has the spirit of a harlot. Conversely, a woman who dresses modestly is demonstrating respect for her brothers and that she does not want to tempt them to stumble.

In the same way, men that are totally obsessed with their physical possessions, their fitness, or wealth, demonstrate that they do not value Jesus Christ. They have no interest in gaining spiritual riches or serving others, they just want to satisfy the lusts of their flesh. We must be careful to examine ourselves, and ask the Lord to lead us down the narrow path to life, that we do not continue to fall into many hurtful lusts.

1Ti 6:9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

We can desire to be rich in many things, not just money. We should desire to be rich in the things of God and not the things of the world.

Psalms 73:25 (KJV) Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that **I desire beside thee.**

1 Corinthians 14:1 (KJV) 1 Follow after charity, **and desire spiritual gifts**, but rather that ye may prophesy.

Mat 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:  
Mat 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:  
Mat 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

As we begin to focus on the new inward man, let us not fall into lasciviousness and disregard the importance of being diligent in our physical lives. A physical manifestation of a spirit of diligence is treating our physical possessions, including our bodies, as precious.

Pro 12:27 The slothful roasteth not his hunting, And the wealth of a diligent man is precious.

This is a very narrow way. We can idolize our bodies and possessions and be obsessed with them, and we can also not care for them properly and be lazy and lascivious. The narrow way is to be diligent to care for our bodies and possessions, yet knowing that they will pass away and do not compare with our spiritual riches.

If you meet a person who has no regard for their physical health, and their home is a filthy disaster, what does this fruit say about their Spirit?

Mat 7:16 **From their fruits ye shall know them; do men gather from thorns grapes? or from thistles figs?**

We are told that we are temples of God, how do we treat his temple spiritually and physically?

1Co 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

1Co 3:17 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 keep the inside of the cup clean, then the outside will be clean as well. We won't be using our bodies as instruments of evil, committing all kinds of evil, and abusing our bodies.

Paul talks about his physical body as he describes his race to win Christ in the Spirit.

1Co 9:24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

1Co 9:25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

1Co 9:26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one That beateth the air:

1Co 9:27 **But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.**

If we cannot keep our physical bodies under subjection, what does that say about the condition of our spirit? How can we be ambassadors for Christ, representing Christ's rule and reign in our hearts, when we are being lead about by the lust of our flesh?

We all have different giants to overcome and it will certainly take time and great chastening to rule these bodies we have been given. I'm just trying to point out that our physical lives matter. Everything we do is a manifestation of Christ's work in our hearts. We are to be different than the world around us, so I hope and pray that God will work in all of us to change our hearts and then manifest that change to the world through our good works.

[Mat 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.](#)