

Being a Holy Temple

Many of us have visited places that were very special and had a sense of reverence about them. You acted very respectfully while you were there. I know that is how I feel at the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington Cemetery or Pearl Harbor. These places represent great sacrifice for what we treasure as a country and we honor those there that paid the ultimate price to preserve the freedoms we cherish.

But there are living temples that are very special also. They were purchased through the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ and all who believe in His priceless sacrifice become a holy temple His Holy Spirit lives in. That's the point Paul drives home in 1 Corinthians 6:18-20, "Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body."

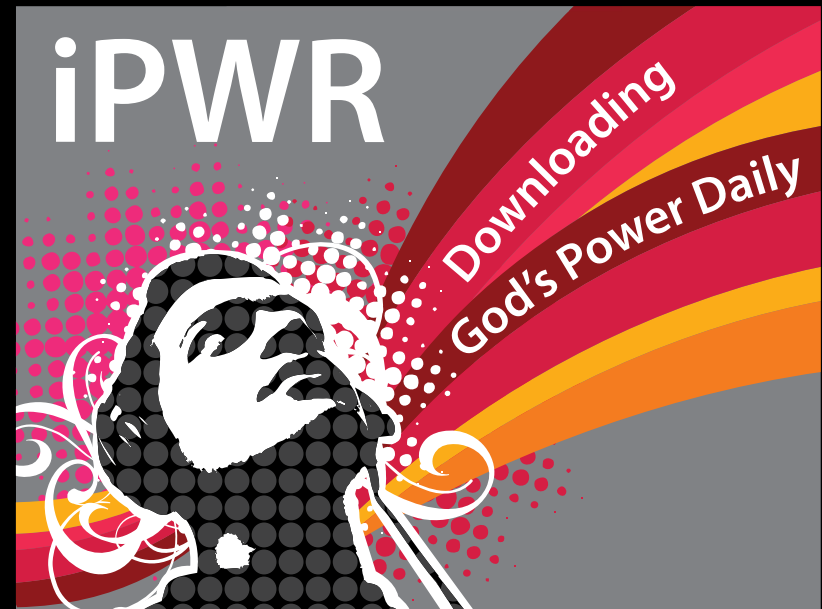
If you believe in Christ, you are a holy temple made for holy living to represent a holy God. Your behavior changes to match your new identity. Every day the Holy Spirit works in you to make you more and more like the Holy One who died to save you. You are not to be self-righteous but pure and honorable in speech and behavior, because you are now a temple for someone very special—the Holy Spirit.

Are you living like who you are—a holy temple?

iPWR Discussion Questions

1. In which area do you struggle the most with integrity:
 - Honesty - telling the truth
 - Deceit - spinning the truth
 - Pride - being sure you get the credit for something
 - Hypocrisy - covering up the truth to look good.
2. Are there areas in your life you think you may be "testing God" in?
3. What is the most likely way you might put a "spin" on something you say?
4. How well do you believe you "own" your sin when you become aware of it?
5. Share a time you didn't act in integrity and how you have grown from it.

Week Six Sermon Notes



Power Need and Fulfillment **April 19/20**

Power for Sharing Boldly **April 26/27**

Power for Practicing the Right Priorities **May 3/4**

Power for Loving Selflessly **May 10/11**

Power for Living Victoriously **May 17/18**

► Power for Walking with Integrity **May 24/25**

Power for Overcoming Suffering **May 31/June 1**

Power Over Demonic Forces **June 7/8**

iPWR Downloading God's Power Daily May 24+25, 2008

Walking with Integrity

We've been talking about "Downloading God's Power Daily" so that we can be a great witness for Jesus Christ.

Acts 1:8 - But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

The Holy Spirit gives us power to live a happy, holy life for Christ, to boldly witness for Christ, to live new beliefs, new behaviors, new priorities and new schedules, to love selflessly, to live victoriously, and... The Holy Spirit gives us the power to become people of **integrity**.

Integrity is so important to God that He pronounced instant judgment on two believers in the early church who lacked integrity. Acts 5:1-11

1. Honesty is the foundation of integrity. Ananias died because he lied to the Holy Spirit and to the church.

Acts 5:1-3 - But there was a certain man named Ananias who, with his wife, Sapphira, sold some property. He brought part of the money to the apostles, claiming it was the full amount. With his wife's consent, he kept the rest. Then Peter said, "Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself.

2. Pride is the root of a lack of integrity. Ananias wanted to look good in the eyes of the church but he didn't want to pay the price for true goodness; character development through surrender to the Holy Spirit.

Acts 5:4-8 - The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was also yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren't lying to us but to God!" Proverbs 16:17

3. The Holy Spirit was committed to keeping His church holy; He hates lying and hypocrisy. Acts 5:5-9

4. It has always been foolish to test God to see how far you can push Him. He still will let you experience the consequences and pain of living with a lack of integrity. Acts 5:9-11

Integrity is crucial to being a good witness for Jesus Christ. The world is watching us to see that we have integrity and credibility.

Max DePree, author of *Leadership is an Art*, says of leaders, "Integrity in all things precedes all else. The open demonstration of integrity is essential; followers must be wholeheartedly convinced of their leader's integrity. For leaders (and Christians), who live a public life, perceptions become a fact of life".

1. Do what you say you are going to do and do the right thing. Its better to be honest about what you will do than to lie about what you didn't do, to try to make yourself look good.

James 5:12 - But most of all, my brothers and sisters, never take an oath, by heaven or earth or anything else. Just say a simple yes or no, so that you will not sin and be condemned.

Matthew Henry in his commentary, says "Let it be known that your keep to truth, and are firm to your word, and by this means you will find there is no need to swear to what you say."

2. Be honest. Endeavor to speak the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God. When you "spin" the truth to make yourself look better, you eventually will get caught in a web of lies and wind up stuck.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 - For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil. Proverbs 2:6-8

Proverbs 11:1 - The Lord detests the use of dishonest scales, but he delights in accurate weights.

3. When you find that you have compromised your integrity, or done something wrong, come clean immediately and own up to it. The one thing worse than sinning is hiding it. God still values honesty over looking good. Palms 51:5-6;17, 1 John 1:8-10

4. Be authentic at all times, in public and private, with others and alone. Don't act like someone you are not.

Psalms 139:1-4, 1 Samuel 16:7

Henry Blackaby, in his book *Spiritual Leadership*, says, "Integrity means being consistent in your behavior under every circumstance, including those unguarded moments."

5. Give the Holy Spirit permission to convict you of incongruities in your behavior which do not reflect his Holiness and character, and let Him develop integrity in your life, to the glory of Christ. Psalms 139:23-24

Psalms 101:2-3 - I will be careful to live a blameless life—when will you come to help me? I will lead a life of integrity in my own home. I will refuse to look at anything vile and vulgar.