Scripture: 1Corinthians 6 v 19 & 20

What? Know you not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which you have of God, and you are not your own? For you are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Subject: What we are to be.

The Bible is very clear about what God wants us to be. There are many parents who state what they want their children to be, I don't know what percentage there is of how many achieve this, but I would guess it is not many, however there are children who it is said, that they are following in their father's footsteps.

We may have our own idea about what we want to be, as a boy I had aspirations to be a cricketer, but God had other plans for my life, the power of His love and grace drew me as a 9-year-old, and that love and grace has kept me. It tells us in 1 Peter that we are kept by the power of God.

There came a time in my life as a teenager when I was moved to spend time in prayer, during that period God moulded me and put His shape on me, as a teenager I slept at my grandmothers and asked her to wake me at 6 am so I could pray and read His word from 6 am to 7 am. Then went off to work.

When at home reading my bible at night my stepfather who was a heavy drinker, would call me an illiterate reptile. But God had a plan for my life, so I had to see to it that my body was ready for Gods purpose.

Paul states quite positively that we are to be a temple of the Holy Spirit. In the previous verses of 1 Corinthians 6 Paul has sets out the things a Christian believer should not be engaged in, they are the things that are responsible for separating us from having fellowship with God, what are

they? They are moral impropriety. They are things the apostle wants us to take note of, for he wants to impress upon us the importance of a Holy life.

What the Apostle Paul is emphasizing is that a Temple of God was a place separated specifically to be a place that is to be associated with the name and presence of God. 1 Kings 5 v 5 Solomon says *"And, behold, I purpose to build an house unto the name of the Lord my God, as the Lord spoke unto David my father, saying, Thy son, whom I will set upon thy throne in thy room, he shall build an house unto my name."*

Temples in the O.T. except the Temple Solomon built, had their god, their idle erected inside them. There is a story in 1 Samuel 5 when the ark of God's presence was taken by the philistines they placed it in the temple of Dagon, when the priests of Dagon came the following morning, they found Dagon on its face before the ark of God. There is no room for any idle in the Temple of God.

The Apostle Paul wrote as stated in the text we began with, that our bodies are to be the Temple of the Holy Spirit, so there is to be no room in our lives for idles or impure living.

With the words of Paul emphasizing what we are to be, I want us to consider that we as Christians and followers of Christ have to have.

1. A Body Fit for Gods Purpose.

I am not referring here to physical fitness, but to spiritual fitness, physical fitness has to do with exercising the body. Some run to keep fit, others go to the gym.

Spiritual fitness has to do with surrendering our bodies to be a living sacrifice to God. Romans 12 v 1.

We are to train ourselves in spiritual matters by prayer, reading Gods word the Bible, and the assembling of ourselves together with other Christians. These are the basic things essential if we are to have a body fit for God to use.

To get us fit for His purpose, God sent Jesus to die and pay the price of our redemption by the shedding of His blood on the cross of Calvary. That is why Paul states you are bought with a price.

These are challenging words that are facing us, as we consider, is my body fit for Gods purpose, is it fit be a temple for the Holy Spirit to dwell in? I am moved by these words because I want more than ever to be a fit vessel for God to use.

The motive behind this message is not to criticize anyone, or condemn, but to encourage you. I want to encourage you by stating that God has a place and plan for every one, and the best way to move into what God has planned for every one, is to ensure that our body is a body fit for His purpose.

With this in mind I would like to refer to the Tabernacle in the worldliness that Moses was instructed to build. Exodus 25 v 8 & 9 *"And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. According to all that I show thee, after the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make it"*

Moses was instructed to make furniture for the Tabernacle to be made out of wood. Verse 10 says *"And they shall make an ark of acacia wood: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof".*

Let's take a moment to consider the acacia tree, which Moses was told to use. Note the process necessary to make it fit for purpose to be used of God. There were stages it had to go through that totally changed it so that it could be used.

The first stage was it had to be cut down and separated from its worldly environment; the next stage was to strip it of its bark, which identified it with its worldly environment, the next stage is it had to be moulded to conform to the pattern Moses had been shown, finally it was overlaid with gold.

In its raw state it was not fit for purpose. Once it had been separated, stripped of its bark and shaped, overlaid with gold, it was fit for Gods purpose.

Follow me in this because I want to use the acacia tree as a type of ourselves, for us to be a body fit for Gods purpose, we have to go through the same process. We have to be separated from sin, stripped of the things that identified us with the worldly environment we once lived in.

We are to be separated, sanctified, shaped, overlaid with gold, which is a type of the righteousness of Jesus. and made habitable for the Holy Spirit to dwell in. The body becoming a temple of the Holy Spirit; a body fit for Gods Purpose.

In Gods service we have to loose the marks of our worldly environment and become separated from what we were, to be what God has planned us to be. He desires we have a body fit for His purpose.

Let me ask you to think about this question, is my body fit for Gods Purpose? If not make a commitment today to present your body as a living sacrifice to God, which is the most logical thing for you to do.

2. We are to be a Body Filled with the Power of God.

3. We are to be a Body Furnished with Praise to God.