

Discussion Questions

1. Introduce yourself again (just in case). Do you have a favorite hobby?
2. What is your favorite physical feature? If you could change one thing about your body, what would it be?
3. Explain how the Temple represented the Body, the Home, the Kingdom and the World for an ancient Israelite. How was this reflected in the dietary code?
4. Review your homework together. What gave you trouble? What new insights did you have?

Review and Homework

Jesus as Temple

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. -- John 1:1-14

*So the Word became human and **made his home** among us. -- John 1:14*

The Jewish leaders demanded, "What are you doing? If God gave you authority to do this, show us a miraculous sign to prove it."

"All right," Jesus replied. "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

"What!" they exclaimed. "It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you can rebuild it in three days?" But when Jesus said "this temple," he meant his own body. -- John 2:18-21

Practice:

Discuss the following passage in your group:

"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's house. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. And you know the way to where I am going." -- John 14:1-4

1. When Jesus says "Father's house", what is he talking about?
2. Where is Jesus going?
3. How will Jesus "prepare a place"?

Church as Body

Don't you realize that your bodies are actually parts of Christ? Should a man take his body, which is part of Christ, and join it to a prostitute? Never! And don't you realize that if a man joins himself to a prostitute, he becomes one body with her? For the Scriptures say, "The two are united into one." But the person who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

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. -- 1 Corinthians 6:15-20

"Well Jesus Christ, I'm not scared to die. I'm a little bit scared of what comes after... At the gates, will Thomas ask to see my hands?" -- Brand New, "Jesus Christ"

What's a Body?

"Locked Out of Heaven" by Bruno Mars

Never had much faith in love or miracles
Never wanna put my heart on the line
But swimming in your water is something spiritual
I'm born again every time you spend the night

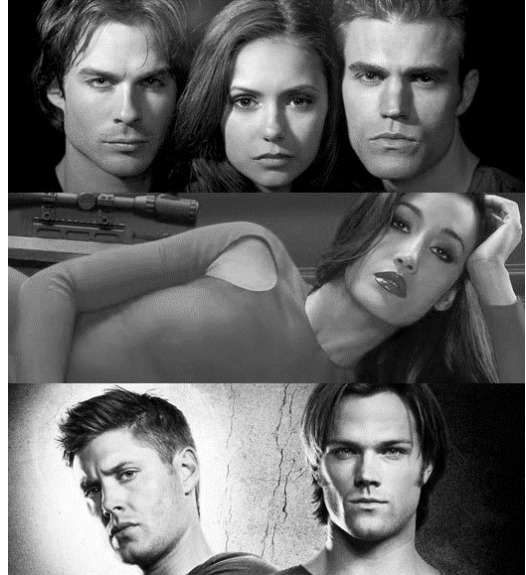
'Cause your sex takes me to paradise
Yeah, your sex takes me to paradise
And it shows, yeah, yeah, yeah

'Cause you make me feel like I've been locked out
of heaven
For too long, for too long

You bring me to my knees, you make me testify
You can make a sinner change his ways
Open up your gates 'cause I can't wait to see the light
And right there is where I wanna stay

'Cause your sex takes me to paradise
Yeah, your sex takes me to paradise
And it shows, yeah, yeah, yeah

'Cause you make me feel like I've been locked out of heaven
For too long, for too long



Church as Broken Body Healed

Someone may ask, "How will the dead be raised? What kind of bodies will they have?" What a foolish question! When you put a seed into the ground, it doesn't grow into a plant unless it dies first. And what you put in the ground is not the plant that will grow, but only a bare seed of wheat or whatever you are planting. Then God gives it the new body he wants it to have...

It is the same way with the resurrection of the dead. Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be raised to live forever. Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength. They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies. For just as there are natural bodies, there are also spiritual bodies. -- 1 Corinthians 15:35-44

Homework

1. Read the story of the Man born Blind in John 9. How does this story draw on the Jesus-as-Temple imagery? What sticks out to you in the story?
2. Compare the CW picture above to images of a beautiful man (Song of Songs 5:10-16) and a beautiful woman (Song of Songs 4:1-7) in the Bible. What are the obvious differences? What standards of beauty does our culture have? What about the cultures of the Bible?
3. Read all of 1 Corinthians 15. Have you considered that Heaven will be a physical reality before? What does it mean to you that your physical body will be part of the restored creation?