



PREACH THE
WORD
It's *Still* All About
Jesus

Your Body is Important!

Psalms 139 Rom 12:1-2, 17-21 Luke 10:25-37

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Your body is important!

As Christians, it is important that we don't focus so much on our souls that we neglect the importance of our bodies. In fact, your body is *as important* as your soul when it comes to the Christian faith and life.

- ⇒ God the Father has **created** you with both a body and a soul
- ⇒ God the Son, Jesus Christ, has **redeemed** both your body and soul
- ⇒ God the Holy Spirit has **sanctified** both your body and your soul.

Your body is *as important* as your soul when it comes to the Christian faith and life.

The importance of your body is seen in the *incarnation* of the Lord Jesus. The Son of God was “*in flesh*” – He was a man, He had a body, in order to be our Savior. Jesus was *flesh and blood* just like us, except He had no sin. Jesus' perfect life *in His body* sanctifies your body; and Jesus' perfect death on the cross *in His body* redeems your body. Jesus' resurrection from the dead on the Third Day *in His body* promises that your dead body will also rise from the dead, be glorified, and live forever in the Kingdom of Heaven. Because Jesus had a body, He teaches us the importance of our own bodies. He has saved us through His life, death, and resurrection; He has not just saved our souls; but all of us: both our souls and our bodies! **Your body is important!**

When Jesus came into the world, He spent His first nine months in the womb of Mary. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. By His own conception, He has hallowed all wombs, and showed us the importance of unborn children. This is why as conservative Lutheran Christians, we are **Pro-life people**. Life begins at conception, like it did with Jesus. Unborn babies are people with bodies and souls; and neither a mother, nor a father, has the

“choice” to kill a baby. The bodies of unborn babies are as sacred as their souls¹.

Of course abortion is a hot political issue, but more importantly, and for so many, is a personal issue. Maybe you know this all too well. Maybe you have had an abortion, or maybe you have encouraged someone to have an abortion. Many people who have been caught up in this *carry guilt and shame with them* for years and years. It is a terrible burden and the guilt can be relentless. If that describes you, then hear this Gospel good news: that **in Jesus Christ, your sin is forgiven!** Jesus’ death on the cross took all of our sins, even the sin of abortion, and any other sin that creates guilt and shame for you. If you are repentant, and this has been troubling you for some time, then hear the Gospel being proclaimed to you right now:

You have peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

God promises to never ever remember your sin again.

If your past sin ever troubles you --- whatever it might be -- and you are overwhelmed with guilt or shame; then believe the Gospel!

God’s grace that covers over your sins with the blood of Christ.

You are forgiven!

You are reconciled with God!

You have peace with God!

Your conscience is cleansed through the Lord Jesus Christ.

The forgiveness of sins gives you new life! Every day is a new day in the grace of God! You have been set free from sin and its guilt and shame! You have new life in Christ in both your soul and your body!

¹ Rather than Abortion, we support Adoption. Loving parents adopting children and giving them a home and a family. Mothers and Fathers valuing children and showing them love and compassion. Adoption is a God-pleasing alternative to abortion.

And your body is important! It is a gift that God has given to you!

Consider some of the implications ...

- ⇒ Think about **HEALTH AND HYGIENE, DIET AND EXERCISE**. You take care of your body because your body is a personal gift from God to you. Being concerned about your **health and hygiene, diet and exercise** shows that you understand that your body is a gift from God, and that it is important.
- ⇒ Think about how you **PROTECT** your body from harm and danger: as God's People we do not use illegal drugs, nor abuse alcohol, nor do we hurt our bodies in any other way. In fact, God has given us doctors and medicine and hospitals and a vast array of medical professions to help protect our bodies from sickness and disease.
- ⇒ Scripture teaches that your body is so important that it is considered a **TEMPLE** of the Holy Spirit! God dwells within you as He leads, guides, and works in and through you. This means that your body is sacred; God lives and dwells within you. One specific aspect of this is that you avoid all forms of sexual immorality, homosexuality, and transgenderism. To be involved in *pornia*² is to desecrate your body, the Temple of God.

Not only is your body important, but so is your neighbors.

That is what Jesus was teaching us in the *Parable of the Good Samaritan*. Jesus teaches us not to be cold and indifferent to our neighbor and their bodily needs like the priest and the Levite were in the parable. Rather we are to be like the Samaritan, who befriended the man who was robbed and beaten. The

² Pornia is the New Testament Greek word for sexual immorality; it is the basis, for instance, of the English word pornography. There are a plethora of strong warnings in Holy Scripture about pornia. Pornia includes ALL forms of sexual sin: Lust, Adultery, Pornography, Sexual Immorality, Homosexuality, Living Together before your married, Casual Sex, "Friends with Benefits", transgenderism, and sexual crimes. Interestingly, pornia is a sin against your own body --> see 1 Cor 6:18.

Samaritan loved his neighbor; and went out of his way and made sacrifices to help the man and take care of his body and preserve his life.

Of course, **Jesus is the Good Samaritan ... and we are the poor man lying on the side of the road.** Jesus went out of His way to help you; He sacrificed His life on a cross to rescue you from sin, guilt, shame, and death. The devil, his demons, and our own sinful nature have robbed us, beaten us, and left us 1/2 dead along the road. But Jesus comes to our side, and through the Gospel, He binds up our wounds and heals us. Because of His death and resurrection, our bodies and souls are redeemed from sin, guilt, shame and death. Our sins are forgiven, we belong to God, and we have the hope of the resurrection of our bodies on the Last Day! Through faith in Christ, you have new and eternal life -- *right now!* --- in both body and soul!

Jesus is the Good Samaritan who helps and befriends us; and in the Parable, Jesus tells us to **go and do likewise.** We are to love our neighbor and care for others as the Good Samaritan cared for the man who was robbed and beaten. We are to love and help others as Christ has loved and helped us. Through faith in Christ, you learn that **not only is your body important, but so is your neighbors.**

And then, finally, someday, your body will fail, and you will die. Your soul will separate from your body. **At your funeral,** these **Words of Hope** will be said over your dead body:

May God the Father, who created this body,
May God the Son, who by His blood redeemed this body,
May God the Holy Spirit, who by Holy Baptism
sanctified this body to be His Temple
keep these remains to the Day of the Resurrection of all flesh!

Lutheran Burial service

We are looking forward to the Day of the Resurrection of all flesh! Your body is so important that God promises to raise it from the dead so that you can live and enjoy His Kingdom of Heaven with your body! That is our **hope:** rock-solid confidence that God will keep this promise ... even after we have died!!

Your body is important!

Unborn bodies are important!

And your neighbor's body is important!

Today, may you realize that bodies are *as important* as souls when it comes to the Christian faith and life. Amen!

God our Creator, we thank you that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. We thank and praise you for our bodies, souls, and our lives. We thank you for the care you have given to us, and the gifts that you have blessed us with.

Pro-life Almighty Maker, You have pronounced humankind very good, created us in Your own image and knit us together even in the womb.

Let us receive every life as Your gift and safeguard especially those threatened by abortion, assisted suicide, and embryo experiments. We pray this in Jesus Name, Amen.

Psalm 139

O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. ² You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. ³ You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. ⁴ Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD. ⁵ You hem me in—behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. ⁷ Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? ⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. ⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, ¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. ¹¹ If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,” ¹² even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. ¹³ For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, ¹⁶ your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. ¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! ¹⁸ Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you. ²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Romans 12:1-2, 17--21

1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. 20 On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Luke 10:25-37

And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" 27 And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." 28 And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live." 29 But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 30 Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. 34 He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' 36 Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell

among the robbers?" 37 He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise.