

CLEANING HOUSE

1 Corinthians 3:16 ... “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

If you live in a home you probably use a broom occasionally to sweep the floor to remove dirt tracked in from outside. You may also clean your windows, wash dishes, dust furniture, mop the kitchen and more. Keeping a reasonably clean home is part of the responsibility of having one. Having a home to live in is a privilege, even if you are a renter or live with someone else. We honor that privilege by trying to keep it clean.

If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, he sent his Holy Spirit to dwell in your soul the moment you accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior; the moment you became born again. Having the Holy Spirit living in you, guiding you, convicting you of sin, praying for you, and helping you understand the Bible, is also a great privilege. The absolute greatest privilege.

Perhaps you keep your house clean in case someone visits you. You do not want to be embarrassed to have a friend walk into your home and find it dirty, dusty, and with things out of place. That is often the motivation that people have for keeping their homes clean...they are afraid someone might drop by unexpectedly. What does your guest, the Holy Spirit, see in your life? What thoughts or words are out of place in your life? What unholy deeds have you done that shame the Holy Spirit? Where do you go that is a place in which Jesus and his Holy Spirit would prefer not to go? Do you have unrighteous relationships that you compel the Holy Spirit to tag along with you in?

If a friend visits you, do you tell them not to talk while they are in your home? Do you tell visitors they are welcome to sit silently while you watch TV, or read a book, or sew, but they must not speak or disturb you? Those are exactly the rules that many believers impose on their guest, the Holy Spirit. They received the Holy Spirit when they were saved, but they have little interest in being obedient to God afterwards. However, they cannot simply get rid of the Holy Spirit. Jesus sent his Holy Spirit into their lives the moment they were born again. He is a mandatory welcome gift for becoming a Christian. So, the only option is to ignore the Holy Spirit when he speaks, and to tell him to be quiet and not disturb you.

Are there things in your life that shame the Holy Spirit? Are you intentionally ignoring him to prevent being convicted of sin? Have you tried to shake him loose without success? Maybe it is time to clean your house – your spiritual house which, according to today’s verse, is the temple of God.

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