

## WHO'S IN CHARGE OF MY BODY?

### *Thinking Biblically About Personal Bodily Autonomy*

A major emphasis in today's pro-abortion movement is personal bodily autonomy. Namely, a woman should have the right to do whatever she believes is best for her because her body is her own. No one else – whether that be another individual, a religious group, or a governmental entity – has the right to dictate what one might do with another person's body. For most any person, this idea is expressed as such as statement as “I am my own boss.”

How does this argument hold up to God's Word? Does God give us the right to rule our own body? Am I my own boss? These are questions that apply to each one of us, not just those tempted to abort a child, or to justify themselves for doing so. We each need to think biblically about this ideal.

Please be aware that our goal is not to condemn but to offer hope that comes through the truth. We have likely all had this “I am in charge of my body” viewpoint at some point. In light of abortion, if you have chosen abortion in the past, God's Son, Jesus, died for all of our sins for each one of us, including the sin of abortion. Jesus paid it all, and we each find full forgiveness in His death in our place if we believe in Him as our personal sin-bearer. This is to help us each to think rightly and live rightly as believers going forward in God's forgiveness.

Do I have a right over my own body? The Bible clearly teaches that God owns our bodies. Today we will look at three key reasons why our bodies belong to God.

#### 1. As a \_\_\_\_\_, I belong to God because God is my \_\_\_\_\_, having \_\_\_\_\_ me.

**Gen 1:26–27** Then God said, “Let Us **make** man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” <sup>27</sup> So God **created** man in His *own* image; in the image of God He **created** him; male and female He **created** them.

**Gen 5:1–2** This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God **created** man, He **made** him in the likeness of God. <sup>2</sup> He **created** them male and female, and blessed them and called them Mankind in the day they were created.

**Is 45:12** I have **made** the earth, And **created** man on it. I—My hands—stretched out the heavens, And all their host I have commanded.

**Ps 95:6** Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

#### a. *God was involved in my conception.*

**Ruth 4:13** So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, **the LORD gave her conception**, and she bore a son.

#### b. *God was involved in my development in the womb.*

**Ps 139:13-16** For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. <sup>14</sup> I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And *that* my soul knows very well. <sup>15</sup> My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, *And* skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. <sup>16</sup> Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When *as yet there were* none of them.

#### c. *God created me for Himself, not to function apart from Him.*

**Col 1:16** For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created **through Him** and **for Him**.

**Rev 4:11** “You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.”

#### d. *God designed me to reflect His image.*

**Gen 1:27a** So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him

#### e. *God designed me with my gender and the role that accompanies that gender.*

**Gen 2:7-8** And the LORD God formed **man** of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and **man** became a living being. <sup>8</sup> The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the **man** whom He had formed.

**Gen 2:15-17** Then the LORD God took the **man** and put **him** in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the **man**, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; <sup>17</sup> “but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

**Gens 2:18, 21-22** <sup>18</sup> And the LORD God said, “*It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.*” <sup>21</sup> And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. <sup>22</sup> Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a **woman**, and He brought her to the man.

*God's design for men is to provide, lead, and protect. God's design for women is to help, nurture, and care.*

#### f. *God designed sexual intimacy to be only within the marriage union.*

**Gen 2:21–25** <sup>24</sup> Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. <sup>25</sup> And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

**Deut 5:18** `You shall not commit adultery.

*There is no abortion that does not also involve a man. A driving issue regarding abortion today is simply rampant sexual immorality.*

**g. God designed, commanded and blessed mankind to procreate.**

**Gen 1:27b** in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

**Gen 1:28** Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

**Ps 127:3-5** Behold, children *are* a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb *is* a reward. <sup>4</sup> Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, *So are* the children of one's youth. <sup>5</sup> Happy *is* the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.

**Ps 128:1-4** Blessed *is* every one who fears the LORD, Who walks in His ways. <sup>2</sup> When you eat the labor of your hands, *You shall be* happy, and *it shall be* well with you. <sup>3</sup> Your wife *shall be* like a fruitful vine In the very heart of your house, Your children like olive plants All around your table. <sup>4</sup> Behold, thus shall the man be blessed Who fears the LORD.

*God's design for men is to marry before any sexual intimacy, and, with his wife, to receive and raise the children God gives them. Our culture rejects God's giving of the blessing of children.*

**h. God alone has the right to take life.**

To prevent life is taking the place of God.

To take life is taking the place of God.

**Ex 20:13** You shall not murder. (Deut 5:17; Matt 5:21; 19:18; Mark 10:19; Luke 18:20; Rom 13:9; James 2:11)

**Gen 9:5-6** Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man. <sup>6</sup> Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man.

**Lev 24:17** `Whoever kills any man shall surely be put to death. (Ex 21:12,29; Lev 24:21; Num 35:16)

**1 John 3:15** Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

**1 Pet 4:15** But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters.

**i. God holds His creation accountable and will judge all mankind in the end.**

**Ecc 12:13-14** Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. <sup>14</sup> For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.

**Rom 1:18–32** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup> because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, <sup>21</sup> because, **although they knew God**, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and **changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man**—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. <sup>24</sup> Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, **to dishonor their bodies** among themselves, <sup>25</sup> who **exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator**, who is blessed forever. Amen. <sup>26</sup> For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. <sup>27</sup> Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. <sup>28</sup> And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; <sup>29</sup> being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, <sup>30</sup> backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup> undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; <sup>32</sup> who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

**Rev 20:11–15** Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the*

Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. <sup>13</sup> The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. <sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. <sup>15</sup> And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

2. As a \_\_\_\_\_, I belong to Jesus because Jesus is my \_\_\_\_\_, having \_\_\_\_\_ me.

**Matt 20:28** just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

**Act 20:28** "Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

**Gal 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

**Gal 3:13** Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),

**Eph 1:7** In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

**1 Pet 1:18-19** knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

**Rev 5:9** And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

a. ***God saved me to glorify Him with my entire being, including my body.***

**Phil 1:20** according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also **Christ will be magnified in my body**, whether by life or by death.

**Rom 12:1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.**

**1 Thes 5:23** Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and **body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**1 Cor 10:31** Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

**2 Cor 5:14-15** For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; <sup>15</sup> and He died for all, that those who live **should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.**

**Col 3:17,23** And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. <sup>23</sup> And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,

b. ***God saved me from serving sin to be free to serve righteousness.***

**Rom 6:11-19** Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup> Therefore **do not let sin reign in your mortal body**, that you should obey it in its lusts. <sup>13</sup> And do not present your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God. <sup>14</sup> For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. <sup>15</sup> What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! <sup>16</sup> Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of obedience *leading* to righteousness? <sup>17</sup> But God be thanked that *though* you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. <sup>18</sup> And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

**Titus 2:11-14** For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, <sup>12</sup> teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, <sup>13</sup> looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.

**Col 3:1-2** If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

**Heb 9:13-14** For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, <sup>14</sup> how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

**1 Pet 2:9** But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

**1 John 3:16** By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

**Rev 1:5-6** and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, <sup>6</sup> and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

**c. God saved me to walk to please Him with my sexual purity.**

**1 Thes 4:1-8** Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; <sup>2</sup> for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus. <sup>3</sup> For **this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;** <sup>4</sup> that **each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,** <sup>5</sup> **not in passion of lust,** like the Gentiles who do not know God; <sup>6</sup> that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. <sup>7</sup> For **God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.** <sup>8</sup> Therefore he who rejects *this* does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

**1 Cor 6:9-11** Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

**Eph 5:3** But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;

**Heb 13:4** Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

**3. As a \_\_\_\_\_, I belong to God because the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ in me, having \_\_\_\_\_ me.**

**1 Cor 6:19-20** Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you,** whom you have from God, and **you are not your own?** <sup>20</sup> For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God **in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.**

**Eph 1:13-14** In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, **having believed, you were sealed**

**with the Holy Spirit of promise,** <sup>14</sup> who is the **guarantee** of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

**a. I am to walk in (by) the Spirit.**

Gal 5:16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

**b. I am to be filled (controlled) by the Spirit.**

Eph 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

**c. I am not to grieve the Spirit.**

Eph 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

**d. I am not to quench the Spirit.**

1 Thes 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit.

**SUMMARY: God Is in Charge of My Body**

- 1. As a CREATURE, I belong to God because God is my CREATOR, having MADE me.**
- 2. As a BELIEVER, I belong to God because Jesus is my SAVIOR, having BOUGHT me.**
- 3. As a BELIEVER, I belong to God because the Holy Spirit DWELLS in me, having SEALED me.**

*Does your thinking reflect this?*

*Does your conversation reflect this?*

*Does your living reflect this?*