

BODY

Paul says: "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own." In other words, you are not your own concept of yourself, not what you believe yourself to be.

The greatest modern thinker of this age, Mary Baker Eddy, defining the word "temple," says that it means: "Body; the idea of Life, substance, and intelligence; the superstructure of Truth; the shrine of Love; a material superstructure, where mortals congregate for worship." (*Science and Health*)

This then is the writer's sense of what it means: What? know ye not that your body is not what you have been believing it to be; it is not your concept of yourself, but it is the "temple of the Holy Ghost"; it is "the idea of Life" and not subject to sickness or death, but is living; it is "the idea of . . . substance" and so is eternal and not subject to discord and decay; it is "the idea of . . . intelligence" and so is not an unintelligent believer in sickness, sin, death, poverty, lack or other evils, but it is the intelligent knower of the truth about God, man, and the universe. It is "the superstructure of Truth" and so is not constructed of matter or error; it is "the shrine of Love" and so all that is lovable and good is enshrined in it and there cannot possibly be anything of evil such as sin, disease, death, poverty, etc., enshrined in it. It is that which God has given to you and *He* cares for it in the tenderest and holiest manner at all times and under all circumstances.

You are not "a material superstructure" where mortal thoughts congregate in the brain or elsewhere therein to worship it, coddle it, medicine it, massage it or manipulate it, bow down to it or idolize it or make much of it in any way; not at all that body which you have been believing yourself to be— your own concept of yourself; but you are *now* "the idea of Life," or God's idea of *Himself*.