

Sacred the Body

RUTH C. DUCK

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1. Sac - red the bod - y God has cre a - ted, tem - ple of
2. Bod - ies are var - ied, made in all siz - es, pale, full of

Spir - it that dwells deep in - side. Cher - ish each
col - or, both frag - ile and strong. Ho - ly the

per - son; nur - ture cre a - tion. Treat flesh as
dif - ference, gift of the Mak - er, so let us

Tune: RUDDLE
10.10.10.10.

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ho - ly, that love may a - bide.
hon - or each sto - ry and song.

3. Love respects persons, bodies and boundaries.
Love does not batter, neglect, or abuse.
Love touches gently, never coercing.
Love leaves the other with power to choose.

4. Holy of holies, God ever loving,
make us your temples; indwell all we do.
May we be careful, tender and caring,
so may our bodies give honor to you.

Ruth Duck, who is Professor of Worship at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL, reflects on the Apostle Paul's instruction to "Shun fornication!...Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body" (1 Corinthians 6:18-20). As Christians we refuse to objectify our bodies, comparing some unfavorably to others, and we respect one another, "persons, bodies and boundaries." The final verse voices a prayer that "God ever loving" will indwell our bodies, making us "careful, tender and caring" in all that we do.

W. Daniel Landes, Professor of Piano and Theory at Belmont University, Nashville, TN, wrote the flowing tune RUDDLE for this text, and Donald Balmos, Director of the Fine Arts Division of McLennan Community College in Waco, TX, provided this harmonization.