

Flee Fornication

“But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollution of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.”
Acts 15:20

“It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father’s wife.” (1 Corinthians 5:1)

Fornication is considered a **“way of life”** in many societies of the world. However, it is an international and cross-cultural sin. It is listed as one of the **“Works of the Flesh”** in Galatians 5:19-21. In fact, **“adultery, fornication, uncleanness, and lasciviousness”** are at the very top of the list. Each one of these works of the flesh is sexual in nature.

Big Words for Big Sins

Adultery-sexual relations of a married person with someone who is not their marriage partner.

Fornication-sexual relations before marriage.

Uncleanness- sexual sins, which would also include our thoughts and the very desires of our heart.

Lasciviousness- is following our passions and desires to the extent that we have no shame or decency in the public. (2 Cor. 12:21)

Each one of these sins ends with a final judgment that the partakers will not enter the kingdom of God and do not have salvation. **“...Of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”** (Galatians 5:21)

In the Old Testament every Jewish man was to be circumcised on his sexual organ to remind him of the fact that he belonged to God. Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit because the Spirit dwells within us. Fornication committed defiles us. It is like Antiochus Epiphanes who ordered that pigs would be slaughtered on the altar. Antiochus Epiphanes was the Roman Emperor who ruled over the people and knew that pigs were an abomination to the Jews. Can you imagine how the people of God felt about this?

Romans 6:11-13 instructs us not to use our body as an instrument of wickedness. When sexual sins are committed we allow sin to reign in us. We should really present ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God (Romans 12:1-2).

“For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication. That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour. For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.” (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5,7)

In this Scripture we men are instructed to **“possess”** or manage our vessel. However, men often fail to manage their sexuality.

How to Stay Out of Trouble

We can protect ourselves from the acts of fornication and adultery by:

1. Bringing our thoughts into captivity to the mind of Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:5, Philippians 4:8-9) When lustful thoughts come into our mind, start thinking about something else.

2. Plead the blood of Jesus. We should pursue righteousness.

“Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” (2 Timothy 2:22)

3. Watch our eyes. Men respond sexually to sight and women respond to touch. Men often give ladies the “eye over” and this should be

Christian Living

avoided. Practice not staring. Make **“a covenant with your eyes.”** (Job 31:1) No immoral act and its pleasure for a moment is worth the pain that it brings to our family, our church, and us. Joseph was one man who was able to achieve mastery over Egypt because he gained mastery over himself. He said, **“no”** to sexual seduction. He would not sin against His God or Potiphar. Potiphar’s wife cast her eyes at him. Adultery and fornication begin with the eyes, are conceived in the mind, and given birth to on the bed of fornication.

4. Keep away from what we know is a temptation (Beach, television, pornographic movies, books, etc.)

5. Do not be alone with a person of the opposite sex. Always move with one other person making a third party situation.

6. Understand that as men we should be a one-woman-man. (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 3:12). Paul was very concerned that a leader in the church should have the victory over sexual sins. Those who commit them should never be appointed as a spiritual leader in the church. The downfall of the mighty man Samson was he had a SHE problem. David was a man after God’s own heart but his close look at Bathsheba and subsequent act of adultery caused the sword never to leave his door.

“But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul. A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away.” (Proverbs 6:32-33)

Within marriage, there is no guilt; no fear of sexually transmitted diseases, especially AIDS. Marriage was designed for maintaining our sexual equilibrium. Outside of marriage, there is guilt and shame. You also become one with the person you commit this act with.

“What! Know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? For two, saith he, shall become one flesh...Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.” (1 Corinthians 6:16, 18)

If you commit fornication you are making a covenant with the person you have fornicated with. When a person does this, he/she is entering into a union with the other person involved. You also run the risk of contracting AIDS and other STD (Sexually Transmitted Diseases). These diseases enter into your body through fornication. Some of these diseases bring death. Many cities of the world are suffering with a very high percentage of the population being HIV (Human Immuno Virus) infected. Fornication also brings unwanted pregnancies and even the sin of abortion is committed in some cases. Abortion is the sin of murder because abortion is the termination of life. In some cases, abortion also results in infertility because of different medical instruments inserted in the womb. Protect yourself against these by following true Christian standards. Stay away from, abstain, and flee from these activities. This will also protect you from the judgment of God.

Before entering into these sins you should **“count the cost.”** The pleasure in sin is but for a season (Heb. 11:25). Satan will try to get you to rationalize that it is all right for you to commit fornication or adultery. Then after the act is committed, he slyly shifts to become your accuser.

The devil offers sinful pleasures but always hides the price tag.

7. We should protect ourselves through prayer and fasting.

8. Maintain an accountability partner by finding someone that you trust. With this person you can share your temptations. This person would become your prayer partner, advisor and listener. This should be someone of the same sex (gender) as you are.

9. Obey the Lord and His Word. We need to study the Word of God on a regular basis. (Philippians 4:8).

“But fornication and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you; as becometh saints.” (Ephesians 5:3)

Christian Living

10. Do not touch! When you touch the other person feelings begin to develop that could lead to fornication. Ecclesiastes 3:5 tells us that there is a “...time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing...”

11. Marry young. Dag Heward-Mills in his book, “**All About Fornication**” encourages people to marry young. “**The more Christians delay the marriage ceremony, the more likely they are to end up living in sin...Don’t use lack of money as an excuse, because you can marry if you really want to. Marry whilst you are still young. Don’t wait until you have all the comfortable things of life before venturing into marriage.**”

The wife of your youth will marry you not because of what you have, but because of who you are.”

“Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of your youth.”
(Proverbs 5:18)

12. Maintain standards of holy dress. Women should not attract the attention of men by wearing tight fitting clothing; miniskirts; abstaining from wearing a brassiere; slits in skirts exposing the thighs and legs; and low cut dresses exposing the breasts.

Men should dress modestly with a shirt on and modest trousers. The only person you should be naked before is your marriage partner.

13. If married, the marriage act should be performed regularly. (Proverbs 5:15-19) Be faithful to your marriage partner. “**Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer: and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontincy.**” (1 Corinthians 7:5)

14. Do not maintain girlfriends outside of marriage. Some men have their official wife and then unofficial girlfriends. It seems that some men look at their wife as the MAIN GARDEN supplying needs most of the time and then there is always the BACKYARD GARDEN that is kept for special times of want. He may feel that he may even commit adultery

(sowing his seed in foreign gardens) and that he would not hurt his own garden by doing that. On the other hand, his own garden, where he plants his seed, would become guilty if it allowed foreign seed to be sown into it. This thinking is a double moral standard and is not in line with the principles of the Word of God. Women are not guiltier than men when sexual sins are committed.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What is “fornication”? _____

2. What is “adultery”? _____

3. What is the final judgment for those who involve themselves with fornication or adultery? _____

4. Why were Jewish men circumcised? _____

5. According to Romans 6:11-13, when sexual sins are committed, what happens? _____

6. In 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5, 8 how should we possess our vessel? _____

7. How can we bring our thoughts into captivity to the mind of Christ? _____

8. What is the difference in the way men and women respond (sexually)? _____

9. Where does adultery/fornication begin? _____

10. Where does the Bible teach that we should be a one-woman-man (or a one-man-woman)? _____

11. According to Proverbs 6:32, what is the result of adultery? _____

12. Why was marriage designed? _____

13. What is the difference between sex inside and outside of marriage (i.e. Guilt, shame)? _____

14. What are some of the unwanted problems resulting from fornication?

15. What are some ways that we can protect ourselves from acts of fornication and adultery? (There are 14 listed)

*Flee Fornication
Run For Your Life!*