

Fornication and Adultery

1. Fornication and adultery are two of the most commonly committed sins upon the earth today. And sadly to say, few people even know the meaning of these two words. Here's Webster's dictionary's definition of fornication and adultery: Fornication-voluntary sexual intercourse between unmarried persons.

Adultery-voluntary sexual intercourse of a married person with someone other than their spouse. Plain and simple. Not much confusion.

2. We will first look into the subject of fornication; and then we will also take a close look at the subject of adultery. They both have become a common practice all over the earth. They are both now just an everyday practice, which, sadly to say, are slowly destroying the morality of mankind upon the earth today. The Godly ordinance of marriage has almost become a thing of the past. People from every age group, and from every class of our society, are just moving in together and living *as though* they were married; having daily sexual relationships with one another, and acting as though there is nothing wrong with what they are doing. They actually feel good about the way in which they are living their life. They act as though they have been able to overcome some huge obstacle in their life; by being able to live together without being married. They just continue on from day to day, and never have a bit of guilt whatsoever. They evidently do not realize, or else they do not care, that one day they are going to have to stand before God, and answer for their sinful lifestyle. Many of them I know personally; and I can assure you, that if they were strangers to me, I would never have any idea that they were not married. I try and remember to pray for them every day, that they will wake up and realize that they are walking in the sin of fornication. Yet I do not believe that it would make a bit of difference to most of them. If a man and a woman can live together and be happy; while committing the horrible sin of fornication; never wanting anything to do with marriage, then something is terribly wrong! And there is going to be a very high cost to pay, if people continue choosing to live their lives in this manner. What does God's Word say about fornication? Very much; and it should not be taken lightly. We read in 1 Thes. 4:3: "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication."

A. For this is the will of God. We all must realize that God has a permissive will, and He also has a perfect will. By this we mean, that God will allow certain things to go on, even though it is not what He desires to be done. He will not force a person to live right before Him, if they refuse to do so. In this case, they are living in his permissive will. But God's perfect will is that we live our life in accordance with his Holy Word. It is the perfect will of God that we all abstain from fornication.

B. Sanctification-Greek-hagiasmos (hag-ee-as-mos): purification (from sin), holiness, or to be in a right relationship with God.

C. That ye should abstain from fornication.

a. Abstain-Greek-pechomai (ap-ekh-om-ahee): to refrain oneself from, or to take no part in.

b. From fornication. Greek-porneuo (porn-yoo-o): referring to unlawful or sinful sexual relationships between a male and a female outside of marriage; also referred to as idolatry, and refers to a harlot or a whore. This by no means is saying that the female is the only one who is guilty before God, but both the man as well as the woman.

3. We also read back in 1 Cor. 7:1-2: "Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband." Paul's main point in this scripture, is that fornication should never be committed. He tells us that every man should have his own wife, and every woman should have her own husband. He is trying his best to influence the Corinthians that fornication is a horrible sin, and that they should never be guilty of committing it. He makes it very clear that a man and a woman should be married before having sexual relationships one with another. He also tells us in 1 Corinthians chapter 10, about the Israelites of the Old Testament, who committed the sin of fornication. We read in 1 Cor. 10:1-8:

"Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud,

and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.” We can see from this scripture how serious of a matter this sin of fornication is. God allowed twenty-three thousand people to die in one day, for committing this awful sin. Today in the society in which we live, fornication has gotten to be just like a playful act; something which we just love to do as part of our fun; never giving a second thought to the fact that we are committing sin in the eyes of Almighty God. It just seems as though it doesn't matter any more. So what, if it is wrong. Everybody does it. What has happened to the conscientiousness of our people? Does nothing bother us any more? Evidently not. Eph. 5:3 tells us to not allow fornication to be once named among us. We also read in Jude 7: “Even so Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.” God is telling us very clearly in this scripture, that they who commit fornication are in danger of eternal fire; or of burning in the lake of fire in Hell. What does it take to wake up people; and make them to realize that when God says something, He means it? The judgment of God is surely coming, if people do not repent of their sins, including fornication, and ask for his forgiveness.

Our society has developed a new motto; “Let's just move in together, and if things don't work out, we can always move out.” We just have the attitude: “There's nothing wrong with it. Everybody does it.” Sadly to say, we have parents giving this kind of advice to their own children. Everyday, on our jobs, on the television, everywhere we go, we hear people talking and making remarks, such as: “I'm not married to him (or her); I'll do what I want to do.” Many parents in our homes, are claiming to teach their children the difference between right and wrong, while they are committing fornication right before them every day. Many of them have never been married, and claim to be living right. How could they ever possibly raise children as God would have them to be raised? What has happened to our society? Why can't we see the wrong in what is going on? We have parents telling the children: “Be careful. You know what might happen.” They've gone to giving their children this kind of foolish advice, because they don't even know right from wrong themselves. They're not realizing, that setting this kind of an example before them; instead of teaching them right from wrong; is only helping them to find their way into the fires of Hell.

4. Now we will see what God's Word has to say about the sin of adultery. Exodus 20:14 says: “Thou shalt not commit adultery.”

A. The word *not* in this scripture comes from the Greek word “*loh*” ; which means never.

B. *Commit Adultery.* Greek-naaph (naw-af): referring to sexual intercourse with an individual other than one's spouse; an adulteress and an adulterer, who is romantically unfaithful to their spouse, or their marriage partner. The only difference from fornication and adultery, is that fornication involves two people who are not married, and adultery involves people who are already married, but not to one another.

C. Under the Mosaic law, the punishment for such sin was death. Lev. 20:10 tells us: “And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.” There were no if, ands, or buts about the matter. As soon as the sin was discovered, they both were sentenced to die. How soon? Immediately!

D. Under the new covenant, we are told in Rom. 6:23, that the wages of sin is death. Both adultery and fornication are very serious sins in the eyes of the Heavenly Father. Even though one may have committed these gross sins, God's love is never ending, and his forgiveness is always just a prayer away. We are told in 1 John 1:9: “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

E. Both fornication and adultery bring down the wrath of God. Col. 3:5-6 tells us: “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience.”

a. *Mortify* therefore your members. Greek-nekroo (nek-ro-o): to deaden or subdue; to put a stop to the existence of (fornication and adultery in this case).

b. *The wrath of God.* Greek-orge (or-gay): the stirring up of the mind, or the emotions of God. That frame of mind which brings forth severe punishment, anger, indignation, or vengeance.

F. Prov. 6:32 tells us: “But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding; he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.”

a. Lacketh-Herew-chacer (khaw-sare): to be without, or to be in want of (understanding); void of (understanding).

b. Understanding-Hebrew-leb (labe): wisdom (concerning right and wrong) or courage.

c. Destroyeth his own soul. Hebrew-shachath (shaw-khath): to cause decay or ruin, to batter up or corrupt, or to spoil or cause to perish. When a person commits fornication or adultery, all that they are doing, is causing their own soul to draw further and further away, from the merciful hand of Almighty God. They will eventually get to the point, to where nothing bothers them anymore. It will appear as though they do not even care what happens to their soul. They will not be concerned in the least about what God thinks about anything. What a shameful place for a person to be!

5. According to the Word of God, if a man even looks upon a woman with a desire to commit adultery with her, he is already guilty of such. Matt. 5:28 tells us: “**But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.**” A man who looks upon a woman, with the desire to have sexual relationships with her, might as well go ahead and confess the sin to God. For according to God’s Word, it is just as bad as actually going through with the terrible sin. Matthew also tells us in verses 29-30 of this same chapter: “**And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into Hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into Hell.**”

What Jesus is trying to get us to realize here, is that if something causes us to commit sin, then it is best if we get away from it; even though it may sometimes be hard to do. If we are tempted to commit fornication or adultery, by being around a woman (or man), then it is best if we stay away from them. The society which we live in today, has made it very hard for both men and women to keep from having evil thoughts concerning fornication and adultery. This is because a person can hardly go into a department store today, without having to look at pictures and posters of both men and women practically naked.

Everywhere you look, you see displays of women wearing nothing but their panties and their bra; and men standing in their underwear. You see every day on the television, shows that are not fit for a descent person to be watching. It is very hard to find a descent thing to watch on the television anymore. And our society has lowered it’s standards to the point, to where a woman thinks that she has to show as much of her body as possible, or she will not be noticed. It seems as though many of them love to wear as little amount of clothing as they possibly can. Men have gotten to the point to where they purposely look at the women, because of all the naked body that they can see. And we are teaching our children that this is the way that they should do. What does God’s Word tell us, as far as how we are to teach the children? Prov. 22:6 tells us: “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

A. Train up a child. Hebrew-chanak (khaw-nak): to discipline, teach, or to lead.

B. In the way that one should go. This is speaking of the ways of God; that which He teaches us in his Holy Word.

C. And when he is old. Hebrew-zaqan (zaw-kawn): speaking of being aged, or matured.

D. He will not depart from it. Hebrew-cuwr (soor): to turn away from (what one has been taught as to right and wrong), to withdraw from, or to forget (one’s training). How does one lead in the right way? First of all, one must be on the right path themselves; setting a Christian example. One cannot be walking in sin, and lead anyone else in righteousness. Luke 6:39 tells us: “And He spake a parable unto them, **Can the blind lead the blind? Shall they not both fall into the ditch?**” How can we expect our children to grow up and know the difference between right and wrong, if we live as though we do not even know ourselves? If we continue to teach them as we are teaching them today, we are leading them right into the fires of Hell.

6. Eph. 6:4 says: “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

A. Provoke not. Greek-parorgizo (par-org-id-zo): to enrage or anger; to cause one to seek for a way of escape.

B. Your children to wrath. Speaking of strong anger or indignation; rage.

C. Bring them up in the nurture. Greek-paideia (pahee-di-ah): education, or training.

D. And admonition. Greek-nouthesia (noo-thes-ee-ah): rebuke, warning, ruling, or perfect will.

E. Of the Lord. This is speaking of that which is taught by the Lord; the Word of God.

Conclusion:

It is time for the people of the earth to get back to God's Word. We have forgotten the difference between right and wrong. Fornication and adultery have both become a common practice all over the earth. We have forgotten about what pleases our loving God, Who has been so merciful and kind unto us. We must remember what Psalm 9:17 tells us: "The wicked shall be turned into Hell, and all the nations that forget God." But we must also remember 2 Chron. 7:14 which says: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

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