"SEXUAL PURITY: WHY?"

1 Corinthians 6:9-20

5-7-2023

INTRODUCTION:

***Genuine Christians have every good reason to be sexually pure!**

Eight reasons why you should abstain from sexual immorality:

I. Sexual sin is a <u>CHARACTERISTIC</u> of those headed for <u>HELL</u> (v. 9-10)

II. Sexual sin is <u>INCONSISTENT</u> with your <u>NEW LIFE</u> in Christ (v. 11)

III. Sexual sin is <u>HARMFUL</u> to yourself and others (v. 12)

IV. Sexual sin <u>PERVERTS</u> the <u>TRUE PURPOSE</u> for your body (v. 13-14)

V. Sexual sin <u>DEFILES</u> the <u>ONENESS</u> the Lord has with you (v. 15-17)

VI. Sexual sin <u>SINS</u> against your own <u>BODY</u> (v. 18)

VII. Sexual sin <u>DESECRATES</u> the <u>TEMPLE</u> in which God's Spirit dwells (v. 19)

VIII. Sexual sin <u>DENIES</u> the Lord's <u>OWNERSHIP</u> and <u>RIGHTS</u> to your body (v. 19b-20)

CONCLUSION:

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5-21-2023

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VIII. Sexual sin _____ the Lord's _____ and _____ _____ to your body (v. 19b-20)

"SEXUAL PURITY: WHY?"

1 Corinthians 6:9-20

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INTRODUCTION:

God's plan and purpose for marriage.

"Marriage is a unique union of one man and one woman. It is so intimate that on the earth nothing is its equal." God saw that it was not good for man to be alone, and that man needed a "Help meet" or a helper suitable to himself, his counterpart. Man needed someone to fellowship with him, someone to rejoice with him, someone to plan, share and experience with him the wonders of God and His creation. In Genesis 2:23-24 is presented the ideal which God intended in the marriage relationship. Eve was "bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh," said Adam. I Corinthians 11:8-9 states that "Man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man--neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man." A principle that started in the Garden of Eden has gone down through the ages: Man was to leave his father and mother and cleave unto his wife, and the two became one flesh (Gen. 2:24). This "leave and cleave" principle illustrates that God instituted marriage and that it was to be a monogamous, heterosexual and complete union of two persons.

God instituted marriage for four basic reasons:

1) To complete the man which He had created ("help meet" - Gen. 2)
2) To promote sexual purity (I Cor. 7:2)
3) To begin a new family unit (Gen. 2:18-24)
4) To propagate truth and godly principles from one generation to the next (Deut. 6:67)

*What God established in Genesis has **NEVER CHANGED***
"And He (Jesus) answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made *them* at the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?"
(Matthew 19:4-5)

What makes a marriage?

1. A covenant (a vow before witnesses - Mal. 2:14). This is the premiere essence of a marriage
2. A consummation (sexual union - Gen. 2:24; I Cor. 6:16)

*In the "vow" the two become one by verbal commitment, whereas in the

consummation the two become one by a holy physical act.

In this chapter we learn about improper sexual relationships; in the next chapter (seven) we learn about how to have a proper sexual relationship.

Reasons people give for committing fornication:

1) "Everybody's doing it"

(No -- Everyone's not doing it)

2) "It's just a natural, biological appetite that must be gratified"

(It is an appetite, but can be gratified in God's time and God's way - You are not an animal!)

3) "I love him/her"

(No, you don't - You "lust" him/her! Love is patient; love is not selfish; love (if real, Godly love) upholds God's truth)

4) "I like it!"

(Its pleasures are only for a season; in the end the immoral relationship will be *"bitter as wormwood"* -Prov. 5:4)

***Genuine Christians have every good reason to be sexually pure!**

Eight reasons why you should abstain from sexual immorality:

I. Sexual sin is a <u>CHARACTERISTIC</u> of those headed for hell (v. 9-10)

V. 9

"Know ye not" - A phrase which also occurs in verses 15 and 19, demonstrating the spiritual ignorance of the Corinthians on some very important doctrines.

"Unrighteous" - Those who have never been made righteous by God have no ability to live righteous.

God is <u>not</u> teaching that you get into His Kingdom by living righteous. He is saying you will not get in if you are not righteous.

Unrighteous living is a symptom of a greater problem: An unregenerate heart.

"Be not deceived" - Stop being led astray.

Many have been deceived by a teaching which believes that a person can be a saved individual and at the same time be living a continual, habitual, unrepentant, wicked lifestyle.

"Fornicators" - *porneia* - A broad term referring to various forms of immoral sexual behavior; primarily used of pre-marital sex.

This word heads the list because it is the main subject of Paul's admonition in verses 9 - 20.

"Idolaters" - Someone who lives for something outside of the true and living God.

Idolatry is sandwiched between fornication and adultery perhaps because of its relationship to lustful, immoral sex. God equates idolatry with coveteousness (Col. 3:5); coveteous is a lustful desire to have that which is not yours. This idolatrous spirit is the root of immorality.

"Adulterers" - Someone who is unfaithful sexually to one's spouse. The Old Testament requires the death penalty for adultery.

"Effeminate" - A male who acts like a female. The word means to be "soft; soft to the touch" (used of soft clothing - Mt. 11:8) (Vine, p. 19).

It refers to a man who, by his own sin nature and choice (not genes), chooses to act like a woman. This word refers to one who, without backbone and character, denies his masculinity and is not satisfied with the gender God gave him, and becomes a passive homosexual.

Transvestism, sex change, and other gender perversions are included(MacArthur,p.142).

"Abusers of themselves with mankind" - In 1611, they did not have the word "homosexual," so they used five words to translate one word.

The word *arsenokoitai* (cp. I Tim. 1:10) literally means: male (*arsen*) intercourse (*koite*) or sodomite (cp. Dt. 23:17).

V. 10

"Thieves" - Those who practice stealing what doesn't belong to them (one who takes the property of someone else).

"Coveteous" - Those who practice a greedy lifestyle and live with strong desires to get more and more (one who is not content).

"Drunkards" - Those who live intoxicated lives (drinking is often connected with loose, immoral living).

"Revilers" - One whose tongue utters abusive language toward others.

"Extortioners" - Swindlers; a robber who uses force and violence in stealing from others.

Those who practice any of the above sins will not inherit God's Kingdom.

Why? Because their evil lifestyle is indicative of an evil heart (Mk. 7:21f), an unregenerate heart.

These verses describe the lifestyle of a lost person.

Those who are trapped in such vices prove that they have never been liberated by God.

It is totally unnatural and inconsistent for a child of God to live like a child of the devil.

Is it possible for a believer to commit any of these sins?

Yes, but it should not happen even once (Eph. 5:3).

Yes, but when he does:

1. Deep remorse will immediately grip his heart (since he has grieved the Spirit - Eph. 4:30).

2. Chastisement from God will follow to bring correction and restoration to the erring brother (Heb. 12:6).

II. Sexual sin is <u>INCONSISTENT</u> with your new life in Christ (v. 11)

"Such <u>were</u> some of you" - God can save fornicators, idol worshippers, adulterers, homosexuals, etc.

Those He saves, He changes.

If we <u>were</u> that way (past tense), it means we are <u>not</u> that way now. We are to be different now, based on the new life Christ has given us.

"Washed" - To be complete freed from dirt and defilement -- middle voice - you thoroughly washed yourself (cp. Ja. 4:8) by repenting of your sin and placing your trust in Christ.

The middle voice indicates man's volition (will) in the washing.

The aorist tense refers to a <u>decisive</u> action which occurred at a <u>specific point</u> in one's life.

"Sanctified" - (aor. passive) to be once and for all time set apart by God.

We have been made holy by God and have become saints by God's grace.

The word of sanctification involved the Holy Spirit taking God's Word (Jn. 17:19) and convincing us of its truth. We then responded with faith in Christ (Acts 26:18), and were claimed by God to be His chosen people.

"Sanctified" - SEE: I Thes. 4:3f.

"Justified" - (aor. passive) To be once and for all time declared righteous before the judicial bench of Heaven.

The Judge Himself has declared us pardoned. We are now viewed and treated as if we had never sinned.

Our justification is <u>based on</u> the person of Christ (*"in the name* [person] *of the Lord Jesus")* and <u>brought about</u> by the Holy Spirit.

Christ <u>did</u> the work for our justification, and the Holy Spirit <u>applied</u> His work to us.

"Washed" speaks of new <u>life</u>.

"Sanctified" speaks of new <u>behavior</u>

"Justified" speaks of new <u>standing</u> (with God)
(MacArthur, p. 143)

III. Sexual sin is <u>HARMFUL</u> to yourself and others (v. 12)

"All things are lawful unto me" - i.e. All things <u>not</u> specifically prohibited in Scripture.

This phrase *"all things are lawful"* was "evidently a slogan that the Corinthian Christians had adopted and used to rationalize their sinful behavior." This context would show Paul to mean "all things" not specifically forbidden in Scripture (Bob Wilkin).

<u>Two principles</u> should govern whether or not we should engage in something not specifically forbidden in Scripture:

1) Is it ***"<u>expedient</u>"***? (helpful or beneficial to me and others)

   Is it a potential stumbling block? Time waster? Will it edify?

   Illicit sex always inevitably results in <u>loss</u> (a no-win situation). Loss of health, possessions, and honor and respect (EX: <u>David</u>) (SEE: Prov. 5:9-11; Prov. 9:17-18)

2) Is it <u>enslaving</u>? (***"brought under the power"* =** to be <u>ruled</u> or <u>mastered</u> by something)

   Beware of addictions.

IV. Sexual sin PERVERTS the TRUE PURPOSE for your body (v. 13-14)

V. 13

Evidently some of the Corinthians were trying to justify their immorality with the slogan: ***"Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats"***. Meaning: Just as the belly and food goes together, so the body and sex go together.

It's just the natural use of the body, they argued.

Paul is saying, God didn't give you a body to use it for fornication, He gave it to you to use for Him!

"All things were made by Him and for Him" (Col. 1:16).

Your body was given to glorified God with, not to indulge your every passion any way you want.

While the carnal Corinthians cited *"Means for the belly and the belly for means,"* Paul countered with his own proverb: Rather, the body is ***"for the Lord, and the Lord for the body."***

V. 14

The Corinthians further thought that things physical, like the body, will pass away.

It's temporary, not permanent; therefore, they thought they could use it any way their lusts would be satisfied.

Paul counters this argument by showing how our bodies should not be thrown out like pearls before swine because the Lord is one day going to resurrect our bodies.

V. Sexual sin DEFILES the ONENESS the Lord has with you (v. 15-17)

V. 15

"The members of Christ" - We are all various limbs of the "Body of Christ" (He is the Head of the "Body"). We are united to Christ, one with Him.

Because of our relationship with Christ and each other, whatever we do indirectly affects others and our Lord.

(If you stick your finger into an electrical socket, it affects your whole body and sends an urgent message to your brain.)

Therefore, whatever we do, we take Christ along with us.

Can we bring that which is related to Him into sexual contact with a whore?

"God forbid" - May it never be! (Such a thought is unthinkable)

V. 16

When you commit illicit sex, you don't merely perform an act, you form a unity.

"One body" - A "psychosomatic" oneness of mind and body occurs in a sexual union.

You become one with that person, and therefore also one with every other person that person had sex with.

Doctors have recently discovered that this principle is true in regards to the transmission of diseases.

Only in the context of marriage is the two become *"one flesh"* spoken of in a positive light (Gen. 2:24; Mt. 19:5; Eph. 5:31).

V. 17

"One spirit" - Not one in essence or nature, but one in relationship.

If we are joined to Christ, we can't do anything without it either benefitting or hurting our relationship to Him.

VI. Sexual sin SINS against your own body (v. 18)

"Flee fornication" - Keep on fleeing; continually run from it.

When you realize its damaging affects to you physically, emotionally, spiritually, it should be abhorrent. When you consider its ramifications to others to whom you are related, you should avoid it at all costs.

When you think about how it affects your relationship to Christ, you should respond like Joseph: *"How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?"* (Gen. 39:9. Joseph fled literally (Gen. 39:12).

Stay as far away as possible from persons, places, and situations that are likely to get you in trouble (MacArthur, p. 148). *"Keep your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house"* (Prov. 5:8).

"Passion is not rational or sensible, and sexually dangerous situations should be avoided or fled, not debated" (MacArthur, p. 148).

"Without the body" - Most sins affect our minds and emotions. But this one not only affects our minds and emotions, but also our bodies. Fornication is a sin which involves the whole being, the total person.

"Sinneth against his own body" - How is it a sin against your body?

1) It cheapens (dishonors) your body (I Th. 4:4).
2) It opens the door for fatal disease to destroy your body (Rom. 1:27)
3) It sins against the in-house Resident who dwells in your body, and it grieves Him (Eph. 4:30)

You don't throw away that which is valuable. You protect that which is valuable. You save that which is valuable.

Your virginity is priceless! Don't throw it away! (like meat to the dogs or pearls to the pigs)

Determine to save yourself for the one spouse God has for you.

Sexual immorality cheapens God's design for sex in marriage. That which is common is not valuable. That which everyone has access to is not priceless. EX: Diamonds and gold are valuable. Why? Because diamonds are not a common stone and gold is not a common metal.

--Pornography degrades women (it does not honor them)

--Pre-marital sex takes the thrill and anticipation out of marriage (it does not honor

marriage) Heb. 13:5 - "Marriage is honorable in all and the bed [sex in marriage] undefiled..."

VII. Sexual sin <u>DESECRATES</u> the temple in which God's Spirit dwells (v. 19)

"Temple" - Shrine; sanctuary; dwelling place

Like the Old Testament temple, we must not:

--worship our temple

--defile our temple

The Spirit of the living God lives inside the believer's body!

To commit sexual sin in a church sanctuary, disgusting as that would be, would be no worse than committing the sin anywhere else -- Because your body is a <u>sanctuary</u> in which God's Spirit lives (MacArthur, p. 152).

No one feels so miserable, stained, dirty, and guilty about sin as a believer.

Reason: God's Spirit is grieving inside us, as one weeps at a funeral.

The reality of our body being a temple in which God's Spirit abides should govern everything we do to our bodies or allow into our bodies (EX: smoking, drinking, drugs, obesity; and in this context, fornication).

"Which ye have of God" - You didn't manufacture the Holy Spirit yourself. He is the Spirit which emanates from God.

VIII. Sexual sin <u>DENIES</u> the Lord's <u>OWNERSHIP</u> and <u>RIGHTS</u> to your body (v. 19b-20)

V. 19b

You can't say, "It's my life, my body, and I will live it anyway I want."

Many don't come to Christ because they don't want to give up ownership rights.

"Ye are not your own" - If you are saved, you don't own yourself. You don't belong to yourself. You belong to the One who made you and redeemed you (ILLUS: The "Little Red Boat" story)

V. 20

"Ye are bought" - bought at the market place (as a slave in the days of ancient Rome).

"Ye are bought with a <u>price</u>" - Christ's blood (Acts 20:18; Heb. 9:12; I Peter 1:18; Rev. 5:9).

"Therefore" - Drawing a conclusion.

Since God lives in us and owns us, we are obligated to live for His <u>glory</u> (I Cor. 10:31) (i.e. that God would be <u>well thought of by how you live</u>).

If you love the Lord, you will do that which pleases Him.

In the last days, "men will be lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God."

The world seeks to get pleasure; the Christian seeks to <u>give it</u>.

We <u>must</u> conduct our lives in a way that pleases God. Are you more interested in God's pleasure than your own?

"To Glorify God" is the goal of the way we live.

Our <u>primary</u> goal is <u>not</u> to keep ourselves pure so that:

1) We can offer ourselves pure to our spouse at the wedding altar (though this is a noble and praise-worthy reason) - but to glorify God.

2) We won't ruin our lives and the lives of others who are watching us - but to glorify God.

3) We won't get AIDS or other communicable diseases - but to please God!

> Joseph said: "how then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" (Gen. 39:9)

Our primary desire in life ought to be to glorify God.

Is that your desire?

If it is, you will say to yourself:

"I can't look at pornography, I want to glorify God."
"I can't look at women with lust in my heart, I want to glorify God."
"I can't read Harlequin romance books, I want to glorify God."
"I can't commit fornication or adultery, I want to glorify God."

"Body. . . spirit" - It is not just our body or spirit, but both that belong to God.

You cannot make a dichotomy of your life.

He gets all of us!

CONCLUSION:

Yield to God what you read, watch, and think . . . and enjoy freedom from a mind chained to vanity.

Abstinence is a matter of faith -

F - Forsaking
A - All
I - I
T - Trust
H - Him

God knows best!

Fornication is wrong because:

1) **Fornication is a perversion (twisting) of God's plan for marital oneness**
(Gen. 2:24-25; I Cor. 6:16) (It is acting out a lie, since the ones involved really are not "one" in God's eyes)

2) **Fornication is a violation of God's clear commands against it** (Exodus 20:14; Dt. 5:18)
(Fornicators will be judged - Heb. 13:4)

3) **Fornication cheapens human dignity and treats the body like an object to be used then discarded**
(that which is common [profane] is cheap) (I Thes. 4:4; Prov. 11:22)

4) **Fornication is not God's will for true sanctification**
(I Thes. 4:1-3) (Defilement is a dirty feeling)

5) **Fornication reveals a lack of self-control over one's sexual desires** (I Cor. 7:5)

6) **Fornication is stealing what belongs to someone else** (or will in the future belong to someone else) (I Thes. 4:6)

7) **Fornication preoccupies and enslaves the mind and becomes an idol which may substitute for God** (II Pet. 2:14; I Cor. 6:13) (It can be more addicting than drugs)

8) **Fornication violates a trust of faithfulness between you and your spouse** (Prov. 6:29-35)

9) **Fornication runs the high risk of acquiring serious infection and fatal disease** (Rom.1:27)

10) **Fornication results in unwanted pregnancies, evil abortion, and children who will lack a proper family structure** (II Sam. 11:5; Prov. 5:17)

11) **Fornication is totally inconsistent for a saint to commit** (Eph. 5:3; Col. 3:3-5)