What The Bible Says about SEX

(Part 1)
3/15/1998

Introduction:
Genesis 2:21-25
From the beginning, God instituted marriage to be a monogamous (one spouse) and heterosexual union.

Satan ruins things in 2 ways:
Perversion: He twists (distorts) God's design
Obsession: He places to much emphasis on something

Part 1: The Physical Relationship of Marriage
I Corinthians 7:1-9

Definitions of "Love" in the Greek language
1) "Storge" - A loyal/family love
2) "Philia" - An affectionate/friendship love (Titus 2:4; Heb.13:1)
3) "Agape" - A self-giving love
4) "Eros" - A physical/sensual love (This word is not found in the N.T.)

Two wrong extremes existed in Corinth:
1) Eroticism - To please the flesh at all cost (no absolutes) (cp. I Peter 4:1-5)
2) Asceticism - To view anything enjoyable or physical as being evil (cp. Colossians 2:20-23)

*God's people must know what the Bible teaches about sex.

Principles about sex from I Corinthians 7:1-9

I. Sex prior to marriage is sin (v. 2)
(wrong time for sex)

II. Sex apart from marriage is sin (v. 2)
(wrong kind of sex)

III. Sexual relations within marriage are clean, good, and wholesome (v.2-3).

IV. Sexual relations within marriage are to be regularly participated in (v. 3)

V. Sexual relations are to be unselfish (v. 3 & 4)
Fornication & adultery are lies. Such sexual unions are expressing a oneness which does not truly exist.

VI. There is to be no sexual bargaining (controlling or manipulating) (v. 5)

VII. A couple must seek to keep each other sexually satisfied to decrease the chances of Satan tempting in the area of lack of self-control (v. 5)

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Introduction:

Genesis 2:21-25

From the beginning, God instituted marriage to be a monogamous (one spouse) and heterosexual union.

God formed one woman from Adam's side, not a harem. (Polygamy is a sinful perversion of God's design).

God formed a woman not another man from Adam's side (homosexuality and lesbianism are a sinful perversion of God's design). [Their names were Adam & Eve not Adam & Steve]

v.25 - Before sin entered the world, there was never an evil, lustful, selfish thought.

They were not pre-occupied with each other's nudity and distinctiveness. They accepted it. Were not carnally-minded.

Before the fall of man into sin,

--there was no guilt
--there was nothing to hide
--there was no preoccupation with vanity
--there was no self-centered lust

Before the fall, there was a marvelous oneness, no sexual obsessions, no sexual perversions.

Note the change after the fall – Gen.3:7

Satan ruins things in 2 ways:
Perversion: He twists (distorts) God's design
Obsession: He places to much emphasis on something

Part 1: The Physical Relationship of Marriage
I Corinthians 7:1-9

Introduction: verses 1; 6-9

V. 1
"Ye wrote unto me" - The Corinthians were confused about many areas of the Christian life (in large pagan cities with diverse religions and cultures, diversities of opinions would abound).

Perplexed about the matter of celibacy, they wrote to Paul asking him if they should remain single. Paul addresses this issue in chapter 7.

"Touch" =
--to literally touch with the hand (Mt. 8:3, 15; 9:20, 21, 29)
--to cling on to (Jn. 20:17)
--to be in contact or close association with (II Cor. 6:17)

"It is good for a man not to touch a woman" - It is beneficial for an unmarried man not to establish an intimate relationship with a woman (to be unattached, to remain single). It is advantageous for an unmarried person to remain celibate (if this is her/her gift - v. 7).

V. 6
"Not of commandment" - The revelation Paul is giving here was not previously given in God's Word. The admonition to consider remaining celibate (unmarried) was not a commandment of God, but now is a suggestion by God via Paul.

V. 7
"I would that all men were even as I myself" = Single, unmarried (cp. v. 8; 9:5)

(Some believe that perhaps Paul had been a member of the Sanhedrin [[cp. Acts 26:10] and therefore he must have been married, and perhaps his wife had died and he remained a widower. --However, no statement of Scripture would clearly substantiate this.)

Paul never hints at a previous marriage in his Epistles.

"Every man has his proper gift of God" - Some people are endowed with a gift of celibacy (most are not).

Some have no desire to get married (and there is nothing wrong with a person who does not need a mate).
However, to try to exercise a gift you don't have is indeed frustrating. Not

all people are able to accept the statement: "It is good not to marry" (Mt. 19:12).

V. 8
"It is good" - This phrase ties back to verse one and explains it.
Paul is saying, It is good to be single.

V. 9
"If they cannot contain" - If they are unable to exercise life-long self-control over sexual appetites and passions -- "It is better to marry than to burn" (lit. be inflamed).

"Burn" - Two views:

1) In hell because of a life of fornicating (F.F. Bruce)
(Mt. 5:27-30; Heb. 13:4; I Cor. 6:9)
* 2) In passionate lust (to be inflamed [passive] with sexual desires)

Satan today (via the TV, movies, music, magazines and other media) has glorified illicit sex. Through over-emphasis, he creates obsessions in the minds of people in regards to this area of life.

Definitions of "Love" in the Greek language

1) "Storge" - A loyal/family love
(Rom.12:10; cp. II Tim. 3:3 "astorge" - in the last days many will be without "natural affection")
2) "Philia" - An affectionate/friendship love (Titus 2:4; Heb.13:1)
3) "Agape" - A self-giving love
(A decision of the will to give sacrificially, & unconditionally - Eph. 5:25,28,30; I Pet.3:7)
4) "Eros" - A physical/sensual love (This word is not found in the N.T.)
This "love" has its source in a emotional & biological urge which seeks fulfillment in sexual union.
The old testament equivalent would be the word "doth" which literally means to "boil" and is used of passionate lovemaking
(Song of Solomon 1:2; 4:10)

Two wrong extremes existed in Corinth:
1) Eroticism - To please the flesh at all cost (no absolutes) (cp. I Peter 4:1-5)
2) Asceticism - To view anything enjoyable or physical as being evil (cp. Colossians 2:20-23)

Evidently some at the church in Corinth taught that a couple (to be spiritual), ought to live as though they were not married; to never enjoy the intimate physical relationship.

Sex is an expression of love which God designed to be the unique

experience between one man and one woman, an experience not to be shared with anyone else. It is the most personal and intimate knowledge that one human being can have of another. This is why the Bible uses the euphemism "know" to describe this most intimate of relationships (Gen.4:1; 25).

*God's people must know what the Bible teaches about sex.

Principles about sex from I Corinthians 7:1-9

I. Sex prior to marriage is sin (v. 2)
(wrong time for sex)

V. 2

God never asks us to avoid something that is not harmful to us. If something is forbidden, it is because it is not beneficial to us. It is bad, dangerous, etc.

"Fornication" refers to premarital sexual relations, whereas adultery refers to a married person who commits intercourse with someone other than mate (cp. Gal. 5:19; I Cor. 6:9 where a distinction is made; NOTE I Cor. 6:18 - Fornication is a sin against one's own body; adultery would be sin against two: you and your mate).

"To avoid fornication" - "Marriage cannot be reduced simply to being God's escape valve for the sex drive" (MacArthur, p.156) However, marriage is a lifelong commitment to mutual helpfulness and mutual fellowship (Gen.2:18). The result of the marriage bond however, will be an outlet for the sex drive to be satisfied in a private, satisfying, and proper way.

"His own wife (singular) . . . her own husband (singular)" - God's will is a monogamous relationship of one woman married to one man for life.

"The two shall be one flesh" (Gen. 2:24; Mt. 19:5; Eph. 5:31).

Cp. Jacob who waited until marriage - Gen. 29:21 - "And Jacob said unto Laban, "Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in unto her." (Such intercourse would consummate the marriage)

Cp. Shechem who didn't wait until marriage - Gen. 34:2, 31.

See I Thessalonians 4:1-8

II. Sex apart from marriage is sin (v. 2)
(wrong kind of sex)

The word fornication comes from the Greek "porneia" from which we get our English word "pornography."

You must guard your eyes and mind (Job 31:1 - "I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?").

Jesus said Lust is the same as adultery (Mt. 5:28)
Not only is pre-marital sex wrong, but a pornographic thought life is.

Masturbation is sin because it is selfish in nature; It is a manifestation of a covetous spirit.

"His own wife . . . her own husband" ("own" - to belong exclusively to someone)
(v. 2)
"Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well" (Prov. 5:15)

If sex is for marriage, it follows that anything which would lead to sexual contact should also be reserved for marriage (EX: kissing, hugging, petting).

Sexual activity is not limited to intercourse. Many delude themselves into thinking that if they go just as far as to come short of intercourse, then they are still innocent of fornication (a "lustful look" is adultery - Mt. 5:28).

Any stimulation of sexual organs by any means (whether by thought, visual stimulus [EX: pornography], audio stimulus [EX: Dial-a-porn], masturbation, etc.) is fornication.

Ephesians 5:3 - But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints

Moral PURITY (v. 3)

"Be ye holy (set apart) for I am holy" (Lev. 20:7; I Pet. 1:15, 16)

"fornication" - sexual impurity

"All uncleanness" - anything that would defile or stain our heart (spirit) or body

"Coveteousness" - an illicit lust to have that which is not yours; a greed (the 10th commandment)

"Let it not be once named among you" -

"Named" - to have a reputation for any of the above is a disgrace. Our testimony is vital to uphold.

Once" - impurity is never OK. It is always wrong.

"As becometh saints" - As is suitable for holy, sanctified ones. Impurity does not suit a saint. It is unbecoming. It is a mismatch. It is unfitting for an imitator of God, a dear child of God.

Is sin in the life of a believer different from sin in the life of an unsaved person? Yes -- it's worse! (Wiersbe, p. 126) "A Christian is not sinless, but he does sin less - and less - and less." (Wiersbe, p. 126)

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)

III. Sexual relations within marriage are clean, good, and wholesome (v.2-3).

Sex was God's invention, not Satan's (Gen. 1:27, 28, 31; 2:25; 4:1).

Sex is not sinful within the walls of marriage. Within the marriage bonds it is holy and good.

"It is indeed a sad, sad situation that the high and holy function of sex life should have been so abused that we have come to think of it as something filthy, sinful..." (Dehaan, p.75)

Heb. 13:4 - "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed (koite - marriage bed; sexual intercourse) undefiled: but whoremongers (fornicators) and adulterers God will judge" (i.e. "let marriage be held in honor by all (everyone); Marriage has a dignity; a value above and beyond any other human relationship.

How will God judge violators of the marriage bed?
In this life - AIDS; STDs
In the next life - (I Cor.6:9)

Sex is for procreation, but it is primarily intended for pleasure (Prov.5:19)

Certain parts of the human (male & female) anatomy have no biological function other than the pleasure of sexual fulfillment. Sexual expression should not be viewed as a "necessary evil in which spiritual Christians engage only to procreate children. It is far more than a physical act. God created it to be the expression and experience of love on the deepest human level and to be a beautiful and powerful bond between husband and wife." (MacArthur, p.157)

"The pursuit of pleasure with your mate in bed is unlimited, except where a certain act would violate the moral law of God's Word or would do harm to the temple of the Holy Ghost, your body" (Dr. Tim Jordan)

Are certain acts forbidden? No, as long as it will not damage or harm your body; or is dissatisfying to your spouse.

The physical act of marriage should consist of that which would please your spouse. If both partners do not give consent, then the couple should abstain from that particular practice.

IV. Sexual relations within marriage are to be regularly participated in (v. 3)

"Render" = This imperative means to pay or give back.

The present tense implies to pay your debt to your mate on a continual or habitual basis. The frequency of the physical union is up to the couple.

Just as God designed the marriage relationship to remain permanent, He designed for the sexual relationship to remain permanent. (MacArthur, p.157)

-- Such satisfaction will prevent temptation to find satisfaction elsewhere.
-- Such satisfaction will prevent "burning" (unfulfilled sexual desire - v. 9)

V. Sexual relations are to be unselfish (v. 3 & 4)

V. 3
"Due benevolence" = obligation or debt. It's not only a privilege to have relations in marriage it is a responsibility!

Note: This is one debt that can be mutually satisfying to pay if a married couple has the right attitude about it (look at it as a debt you "get to" pay, rather than "have to" pay).

You are obligated to please your spouse (whether or not he/she is a Christian).

If you are married, you can't say, It's my body, not yours" (v. 4).

A wife cannot say to her husband: "It's my body and you can't have it."

When the "two become one," their lives are no longer separate (distinct). Their lives are mysteriously interwoven so that an inseparable oneness occurs.

What's mine is hers and vice versa. It's no longer "you" and "me," but "we."

God is teaching us "mutual dependence." Each is the other's property.

Sexual problems in marriage are not the problem, but are symptoms of a deeper problem. (Anger; guilt; selfishness; unfaithfulness hurt the sex life)
Sex in marriage is usually a good barometer which measures the spiritual temperature of the marriage itself.

Your goal in sexual relations is not to please yourself but your spouse.
"The Husband seeks to please the wife, the wife to please the husband. Each is willing to forego his or her personal wishes, if need be, for the sake of the other. And when this is done in Christian love, marriage can be beautiful" (Dehaan, p.75)

True happiness & fulfillment in life comes as the result of unselfishly

giving to others. (It is more blessed to give than to receive)

"Your primary consideration in sex must be meeting your mate's need, not your own! You go to that bed to please and satisfy the other" (Dr. Tim Jordan)

Generally, women require some: 1) Romance; 2) More Time

Someone has described the average man as being like a "light bulb" (which can be quickly turned on & off); The female however, is like a piece of iron (it takes time to heat up, but once hot it remains that way for a while)

The Purpose for sex: Your physical relationship is a reassurance of love and affection.

Technically, Sex should not be called "making love" but "showing love" This is because God intended sex to be an expression of the oneness, love, & affection you have for each other.

This is why fornication & adultery are lies. Such sexual unions are expressing a oneness which does not truly exist.

VI. There is to be no sexual bargaining (controlling or manipulating) (v. 5)

"defraud" - To deprive; keep back; to rob.

Never use sex as a means of exploitation or as a way of conniving to get something else in return. "I will, if you will....."

"Sexual love is a beautiful tool to build with, not a weapon to fight with" (Wiersbe, p.591)

Abstinence must be with consent (agreement).

God says to the bride and groom on honeymoon, "Eat, O friends, drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved." (Song of Solomon 5:1).

VII. A couple must seek to keep each other sexually satisfied to decrease the chances of Satan tempting in the area of lack of self-control (v. 5)

During times of deep burden, a couple may not have any sexual desire, but may wish to devote themselves to "fasting and prayer".

But such abstinence should be temporary so that Satan will not gain foothold into their marriage and introduce alternative means of sexual fulfillment.

"Incontinency" - lack of self-control

Satan tempts after great victories (when our guard is down)
Satan also tempts when needs are not being met.

"When a husband and wife are yielded to the Lord, and when they seek to please each other in the marriage relationship, the marriage will be so satisfying that neither partner would think of looking elsewhere for fulfillment" (Wiersbe, p.591)

If you keep your mate satisfied, you greatly lessen the temptation to look for greener grass elsewhere.

Prov. 27:7 - "The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet."

Sexual expression in marriage fulfills the person's manhood or womanhood, satisfies the sex drive, relaxes the nervous system, reduces friction in the home, and reassures each other of faithfulness and love. (Tim LaHaye - "The Act of Marriage")

Contrary to popular opinion, sexual happiness in marriage will not occur naturally or by accident. It takes work & sacrifice like any other aspect of marriage.

Sex is not the most important part of marriage, but it is a very important part that must be talked about (between the couple) and worked on! (Dr. Tim Jordan)
It takes a concerted effort to be mutually unselfish in this area.

What The Bible Says about SEX

(Part 2)
3/29/1998

Hebrews 13:4 - Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

"Marriage is honorable" - (an implied imperative) i.e. "Let marriage be held in honor"; or "Marriage should be honored."

The word "honorable" means to be treated with value, by all believers.

Marriage is dishonored (devalued) by:
--deliberate unequal yokes (knowingly) (II Cor. 6)
--polygamous marriages
--homosexual/lesbian marriages
--those who live together in an unmarried state (without a legally recognized covenant before God and witnesses)
--divorce
--role reversals (husbands not loving; wives not submitting)
** --Sexual infidelity (in context here)

The gay agenda today is to redefine the word "family."

There is a media mockery of traditional family values regarding marriage in our society today.

"The bed undefiled" - Let the marriage bed be undefiled.
"Bed" = koite - sexual intercourse.

There is nothing sinful about sex between a husband and wife in a marriage relationship (SEE: I Cor. 7:2-5)

Sex is an expression of unity between a woman and a man who are indeed one in holy matrimony. All other sexual intercourse is wrong because it is a lie. In fornication or adultery, a oneness is being demonstrated in a relationship between two people who are not really one in the eyes of God.

God hates immorality so much because it violates His purpose, plan, and picture of marriage.
Marriage is a picture of Christ's relationship to His Bride (Eph. 5). No one has a relationship with Christ who is not married to Him!

Parents: Teach your teens about the sanctity of marriage (Start instilling such principles into their minds at a young age!)

Keep your bed undefiled - No one should ever sleep with you other than your spouse. Sex outside of marriage stains and pollutes the heart, soul, and body

of the people involved.

"Whoremongers" = fornicators (sexual immorality outside of marriage; primarily used of pre-marital sex).

"Adulterers" = One who is unfaithful to his/her marriage vows (extra-marital sex).

"God will judge" -
1) The judgment is divine - "God" will judge (you should not worry about what people will say or do; your real concern ought to be what God will do!)
2) The judgment is future and certain - "will" It may not come immediately but it will come eventually!
3) The judgment is severe! Loss of joy, guilt, mental and emotional anguish, frustrations resulting in violent behavior, communicable diseases (such as gonorrhea or AIDS), broken homes, and hell fire for those who practice such lifestyles (I Cor. 6:9-10).

Scriptures related to sexual purity: Genesis 39:7-13; Prov.7:6-27; 9:13-18; I Thess. 4:3-8

Eph. 5:3 – "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints"
Sexual sin shouldn't occur one time in the life of a Christian; God's wrath does come on such (vv.4-6)

"SEXUAL PURITY: WHY?"
I Corinthians 6:9-20

INTRODUCTION:

Having learned about how to have a <u>proper</u> sexual relationship in chapter 7, In this chapter we learn about <u>improper</u> sexual relationships.
(One way to learn about what something <u>is</u> to learn what it is <u>not</u>; One way to learn how something <u>should be</u> done is to learn how it <u>should not be</u> done.)

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 CHARACTERISTIC 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 not 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 - There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel).

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 INCONSISTENT with your new life in Christ (v. 11)

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

Those He saves, He changes.

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

"Washed" - To be completely 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 decisive action which occurred at a specific point 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 based on the person of Christ ("in the name [person] of the Lord Jesus") and brought about by the Holy Spirit.

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

"Washed" speaks of new life.

"Sanctified" speaks of new behavior

"Justified" speaks of new standing (with God)

(MacArthur, p. 143)

III. Sexual sin is HARMFUL to yourself and others (v. 12)

"All things are lawful unto me" - i.e. All things not 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).

Paul may be referring to behaviors the Roman Law in his day would not prohibit. There are many deviant behaviors permitted by the Law of our land that are not right.

Two principles should govern whether or not we should engage in something not specifically forbidden in Scripture:

1) Is it "expedient"? (helpful or beneficial to me and others)

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

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

2) Is it enslaving? ("brought under the power" = to be ruled or mastered 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 "Meats for the belly and the belly for meats," 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).

SEE Prov. 5:1-8 **v. 8 "Remove thy way far from her" (EX: Joseph - Gen. 39:10

SEE Prov. 7:5-27
a.The victim wanders aimlessly into temptation (v. 6a)
b.The huntress uses planned-out tactics
--shock treatment (v. 13)
--spiritual story (v. 14)
--flattery (v. 15)
(he is the very one she had to find)
--sensuous appeal (v. 16-18)
--reassurance (v. 19, 20)
c.The kill (v. 22, 23)

***V. 25 - Keep away!

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 DESECRATES 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 sanctuary 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 DENIES the Lord's OWNERSHIP and RIGHTS 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 price" - 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 glory (I Cor. 10:31) (i.e. that God would be well thought of by how you live).

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 give it.

We must 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 primary goal is not 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:

The world says, "If you have an appetite, feed it. If you have a desire, satisfy it. If you have anger, vent it. If you have something to brag about,

display it." etc.

The world says, "Let it out! It's wrong to hold back; do your own thing (right or wrong); have it your way."

As believers, we are to have fences - not boundaries (restraining walls) that we think up (EX: celibacy of RCC priests) but that God has set up, and revealed in the Scriptures.

Four walls:

--Think right

(beware of what you think) (Mt. 5:28; Phil. 4:8) "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he."

--Do right

(beware of how you behave) (Phil. 4:9)
Avoid situations and places that might lead to immorality. "Make not provision…"
Keep your hands off of the opposite sex.
Avoid going steady until you are ready for the responsibilities of marriage.
Establish accountable relationships with other men to encourage each other to be pure.

--Dress right

(Beware of what you wear - modesty) (I Tim. 2:9)
Men are more attracted to the visible.

--Look right

(Beware of what you see) (Mt. 5:29)
(cp. Job 31:1 - "Covenant with mine eyes") Prov. 6:25a - "Lust not after her beauty in thine heart"
Guard against visual stimuli that enflacmes sexual passion (TV; Videos; Pornography)

Today: Make a commitment to chastity (Have a purity dedication) A good suggestion to young people on their 13th birthday.

What The Bible Says about SEX

(Part 2)
3/29/1998

Hebrews 13:4 - Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

Scriptures related to sexual purity: Genesis 39:7-13; Prov.7:6-27; 9:13-18; I Thess. 4:3-8

"SEXUAL PURITY: WHY?"
I Corinthians 6:9-20

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

Eight reasons why you should abstain from sexual immorality:

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

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

III. Sexual sin is HARMFUL to yourself and others (v. 12)

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

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

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

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

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