

THE SIN OF FORNICATION

Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. This was a sin the first century church had to deal with over and over . . . I Cor. 5: 1 – 7; I Cor. 6: 13, 18; Acts 15: 28 – 29; 2 Cor. 12:21; Eph. 5: 3 – 5; I Thess. 4: 3 – 6; Rev. 2:20; 2 Pet. 2:14; Rom. 1: 29; I Cor. 10:8; Rom. 13: 13.
2. This is an oft committed SIN TODAY:
 - a. One in four children born in the U.S.A. is born out of wedlock, conceived in fornication.
 - b. Some estimate that one, or both, partners in about two of every three marriages have committed adultery, or were involved in an affair before the age of 40.
 - c. 40% of the 29 million teenagers in the USA have committed fornication, with the first experience well below 16 on average.
 - d. “65 percent of church youth (defined as youth who attend church regularly) have had some type of sexual contact by the age of 18, and 43 percent have experienced sexual intercourse by that age” *Christianity Today*, March 18, 1988.
 - e. One study among churches of Christ showed 71% of teens were virgins, but 75% of the sample used mutual, intimate touching as a substitute for intercourse – Gal. 5:19.
3. We ALL need to be reminded of the teaching of God’s Word regarding sexual conduct.
4. The book of Proverbs contains the instructions of a father to his son.
5. Repeatedly, the writer urges his son to *listen to the wisdom and instruction of his father and mother* – Prov. 1:8; 6:20.
6. In several of the early chapters, the Father warns his son of the dangers which an evil woman presents – Prov. 2: 16 – 17; 5: 1 – 23; 6: 24 – 35; 7:1 – 27; 9: 13 – 18.
7. His repeated warnings remind us of what a danger SEXUAL SIN is for Young People.
- 8.
9. Although the Proverbs are written from the point of view of a father warning his son of the dangers of the IMMORAL WOMAN, the lessons are just as true when understood from the point of view of a mother warning her daughter of the danger of an IMMORAL MAN.

I. THE CONDUCT OF AN IMMORAL WOMAN

- a. An Immoral woman uses *flattery*.
 - i. The strange woman “*which flattereth with her words*” – Prov. 2:16.
 - ii. “*For the lips of a strange woman drop as a honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil*” – Prov. 5:3.
 - iii. Prov. 6:24 “*to keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strong woman*”
 - iv. *Prov. 7:21*
 - v. **The same is true with an Immoral Man.**
- b. She flirts with her eyes.
 - i. The wise man warned: “*Neither let her take thee with her eyelids*” – Prov. 6:25
 - ii. “*Wanton eyes*” – Isa. 3:16 – Flirtatious and alluring eyes.

- iii. Without a word being spoken, a young woman can indicate her willingness to participate through “body language”.
 - 1. Casting sensual and amorous glances . . .
 - c. She draws attention to her body by her dress.
 - 1. The wise man warned the young man not to “*lust after her beauty in thine heart*”—Prov. 6:25.
 - 2. She wears “*the attire of a harlot*” – Prov. 7:10
 - 3. She dresses very flaunting (bold).
 - 4. Jesus warned in Matt. 5:28.
 - 5. Job made a covenant with his eyes not to think upon a maid—Job. 31:1.
 - d. She is forward and bold.
 - i. The evil woman has laid aside the reserved demeanor and characteristics of a godly who has shamefacedness and modesty – I Tim. 2:9.
 - ii. “*She is loud and stubborn*” –Prov. 7:11.
 - iii. “*So she caught him, and kissed him*” – Prov. 7:13.
 - iv. Notice the bold, unreserved and forward character displayed by the immoral woman.
 - e. She has no commitment to her marriage covenant.
 - i. “*Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God*” –Prov. 2:17.
 - 1. The “*guide of her youth*” is her husband.
 - 2. The “*covenant of her God*” is the marriage covenant – Mal. 2:14.
 - 3. The fact that an immoral woman is married means nothing to her.
 - 4. If she desires to have an affair with another man, she is willing to turn her back on her previous commitment in favor of another man.

II. REASONS TO AVOID THE EVIL WOMAN.

- a. Fornication is a difficult sin to quit practicing.
 - i. “*None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life*” – Prov. 2:19.
 - ii. Those who have tasted the “forbidden fruit” will return to it again and again . . .
 - iii. It is very hard to bring the adulterer and fornicator to repentance.
 - iv. “*And he shall be holden with the cords of his sins*” – Prov. 5:22.
- b. The end results of this conduct is bitter.
 - i. Prov. 2:18
 - ii. Prov. 5: 4 – 5 “*but her end is bitter as wormwood*” (a bitter plant).
 - iii. What seemed like pleasure at the beginning ends up in anguish, bitterness, and sorrow – Prov. 9: 17 – 18.
 - iv. Prov. 6: 27 – 28
 - 1. Fornication produces painful consequences.
 - 2. David committed adultery with Bathsheba – 2 Sam. 11; Psa. 51:3.
- c. One gives his honor, strength, and wealth to strangers . . .
 - i. Prov. 5: 8 – 10
 - ii. Prov. 6: 33
- d. He contracts social diseases.
 - i. Prov. 5:11
 - ii. Gonorrhea, Herpes, Syphilis, Aids . . .
- e. He will have mental anguish as he remembers his rejection of divine instruction.

- i. As the ungodly reaps his harvest after sowing to the flesh, he will remember the warnings given him.
 - 1. Prov. 5: 12 – 13
- f. He will suffer the problems of Jealousy.
 - i. When a man commits adultery with another's wife, he must deal with the rage of her husband.
 - 1. Prov. 6: 34 – 35

III. CONCLUSION

- a. The eternal consequences of sexual immorality is the loss of the soul in hell – Gal. 5: 19.
- b. Whatever attitude our society develops toward sexual activity does not change God's law on the matter.
- c. Sexual activity outside of the marriage bed is sinful and a violation of God's law – Heb. 13:4.
- d. Christians must realize they will not be judged on the basis of what the world thinks, but on the basis of WHAT GOD SAYS.

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