

Abstain From Fornication

I Thess. 4:3-8

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; **4** that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, **5** not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; **6** and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. **7** For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. **8** So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you. (NASB)

Introduction

- “Since the late 50’s and early 60’s , America has been on a destructive sexual binge” (Wayne Jackson)
- We live in a society that is literally saturated with sexual themes, images, and content. Along with that – the mantra that says you should be tolerant, even approving of any behavior that a person chooses to engage in.
- No means of media, technology, etc. has been spared the devil’s evil and perverted work and purpose. Whether it is TV, Internet, Cell phones, Movies, DVD’s Video Games, Radio, Music, Advertising, Various institutions of government and education, etc.
 - This is the environment in which we find ourselves.
 - This is the environment in which children are being raised today.
- The curriculum of many public schools: “Sex ed.” or so called “Safe Sex” teaching. In many places begins in early grades. Consists of these messages: 1) No moral absolutes, 2) Encourages promiscuity, 3) Avoid disease and pregnancy, 4) Abortion “counseling”
- Recent Article and Study: “Teaching Abstinence Works Better Than Sex Ed.”
 - Live chaste lives; Consider the consequences of your actions; Many respond positively

Discussion

I. **God Requires Abstinence**

- 1 Thess. 4:3-8** → **3** For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; **4** that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, **5** not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; **6** and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. **7** For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. **8** So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you. (NASB)
- Col. 3:2-8** → **2** Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. **3** For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. **5** Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. **6** For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, **7** and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. **8** But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. (NASB)
- Eph. 5:1-3** → **1** Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; **2** And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour. **3** But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; (KJV)
- 1 Cor. 6:9-11** → **9** Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, **10** Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.
- 1 Cor. 6:18-20** → Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. **19**What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? **20**For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

II. **The Evil Conduct That Leads Up To Fornication Is Condemned**

- Matt. 5:27-28** → **27** Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: **28** But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. **29** 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. **30** 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.

• **Gal. 5:19 → 19** Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

• **Gal. 5:19 → 19** Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, (NASB)

• The Bible not only condemns the act of fornication but the lustful look, thought, words, dress, physical contact, etc. that initiates, precedes it.

III. Physical Intimacy Is Reserved For Those Who Are Married

• **Heb. 13:4 → 4** Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

• God's law:

–if you are not married, you must abstain from sexual intimacy.

–if you are married, you must abstain from sexual intimacy with anyone but your spouse.

–God requires abstinence.

III. God's Laws Are For Our Best

• The God who made us, knows what is best for us, and through His word seeks to protect us from the grief, trouble and consequences that arise from sin.

• Violation of God's law for marriage – the intimacy that is to be only within that bond – brings on an inestimable grief and trouble that may last a lifetime, and beyond.

–The case of David. (II Sam. 11-12; Ps. 51:1-4)

–The way of transgressors is hard. (Prov. 13:15)

–Described by Solomon. (Prov. 6:25-33)

• Consequences of transgression:

Pregnancy – 3000 adolescent girls get pregnant every day. If there is a pregnancy, it changes your life.

–1) Two thirds of teen moms never complete high school.

–2) 80% live below the poverty line for the next decade.

–3) More than half stay there for the rest of their lives.

–4) The children are impacted. They are more likely to be in poor health and struggle through life. The boys are more likely to end up in prison and the girls more likely to be unwed moms – and continue the cycle.

• Disease – 12,000 kids contract an STD every day.

• Guilt – one girl commented, "I felt like God wasn't going to forgive me. I asked myself again and again, Why on earth did you do it?"

• There is a lesson here for godly parents. We need to be talking to our kids about this. We need to be emphasizing the consequences of sin.

• Excerpts from: "Is Premarital Sex Worth It?"

–Moreover, early sexual experience has been linked to marital dissatisfaction, low self-esteem, and greater incidence of Divorce."(Hooten)

–In addition to the risk of contracting STDs [sexually transmitted diseases] and AIDS [acquired immunodeficiency syndrome] or getting pregnant, premarital sex leads to emotional distress, distrust, regret, and emptiness.

–Couples who cohabit before marriage have a 50 percent higher divorce rate than those who don't. These couples also have higher rates of domestic violence and are more likely to be involved in sexual affairs.

– “If one gives in to moral temptation before marriage, what's to stop him or her from giving in to moral temptation once married?”(Why) If couples cannot control themselves before marriage, who is to say they will be able to control themselves, when they are married, from getting involved with other relationships? “The more promiscuous you are before marriage, the more likely you are to commit adultery after marriage. (The sexually self-indulgent have had no practice in self-restraint.)” (Morse)

–Another study showed that even if they do marry, couples who begin their marriages through cohabitation are almost twice as likely to divorce within 10 years compared to all first marriages: 57 percent to 80 percent.”

–“Every 26 seconds a baby is born to an unmarried mother.”(Children's) “In a 24 hour time period, 2795 teenager girls will become pregnant.”(Children's) “1,106 teenagers have abortions every day.”(Children's) The CDC estimates, “Some 11 percent of teenage girls between the ages of 15 and 19 become pregnant each year, accounting for approximately 1 million pregnancies.”(Benoit) Dr.

–Diseases, cancer, unplanned pregnancies, shame, guilt, adultery, divorce, impotence, etcetera - who would want to miss out on these? My guess would be that most people would not want these in their life. Am I right? These are all results of premarital sex.

IV. *Temptation Can Be Resisted*

- The current “safe sex” philosophy is demeaning, insulting, condescending and degrading of young people. It says you lack the will, intelligence, the decision making capability, and self-discipline to resist the temptation.

- God has a much higher expectations and requirements.

 - I Cor. 10:13 → you will not be tempted beyond your ability to resist

 - James 4:7 → resist the devil and he will flee from you

 - Ps. 119:11 → thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee.

- Gen. 39:8-9 → The example of Joseph: What was he thinking? 1) others, 2) the sanctity of marriage, 3) his godly principles, 4) God

V. *God Holds All Accountable*

- The ultimate consequence for all who disobey and continue to disregard God's law.

 - I Thess. 4:6 → the Lord is the avenger...

 - Col. 3:6 → the wrath of God will come upon those who disobey

 - Heb. 13:4 → fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

- To disobey is sin. To persist in sin will cause us to be lost in the end.

Conclusion

1 Cor. 6:9-11

•9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

9.26.10