

NOTES

~ *Sexual Immorality* ~

God gave us guidelines that, if followed, will help us stay healthy mentally, physically, and spiritually. Consequences of practicing sexually-immoral behavior include population decline, disease, strife between humans, and God's judgment & hell.

First, let's define sexual immorality and how it relates to 'fornication'.

- **Fornication:** Homosexuality; Incest; Bestiality; Adultery (**Leviticus 18:22-23; Acts 21:25** – abstain from this; **Romans 1:26-27** – behavior penalized; **1Corinthians 6:9-10** – won't see the kingdom of God.)

Other immoral or risky sexually-related behavior:

- Prostitution & sexual promiscuity (**1Corinthians 6:15-18; Romans 13:13**)
- Premarital sex (**1 Corinthians 7:1-2 & 8-9**)
- Chasing sensuality (**1Timothy 5:5-6; Romans 13:13**)

What can be some negative consequences of sexual misbehavior?

- Devalue sexual relationship between husband and wife
- Destruction of a family unit, under-population, & ruined relationships
- Poor self-image or unrealistic sexual expectations
- Sexually-transmitted diseases
- Unwanted pregnancy or birth defects
- Self-centered sex
- Judgment for *practicing* immorality (**Galatians 5:19-21; Colossians 3:5-6**)

How can we avoid sexual immorality & Honor God?

- Repent of sinful behavior and enter into covenant with God through the Christ (**Acts 3:19; 2Corinthians 7:10** – repentance leads to salvation).
- Apply God's ways (Romans 13:14) in true worship (**Romans 12:1**). This will help us deal with temptation before it becomes sinful behavior.
- Exercise the gifts of God's Spirit, displaying self-control (**Galatians 5:22-23; 2Peter 1:5-7**)

Summary: If you believe our creator exists, then also believe that His ways are true and good for us. Repent of anything contrary to those ways by changing any behavior that could result in judgment and spiritual death. Learn and follow. Live and grow. Be healed . . .

True Repentance: *A Change in Behavior That Comes From a Change of Heart!*
Ron Braley, www.ronbraley.com, 512-215-0777, ron@ronbraley.com

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Introduction

The focus = Right-living;
Holiness; self-control in
pleasing **God**

Sexual immorality and fornication defined

Acts of fornication - disgusting to God

- Learn what **God**
likes & do that!

Sexual immorality includes fornication

Introduction: God gave us guidelines that, if followed, will help us stay healthy mentally, physically, and spiritually. Consequences of practicing sexually-immoral behavior include population decline, disease, strife between humans, and God's judgment & hell.

We're going to discuss how to become and stay pure, looking forward to God's kingdom of heaven in return. Sex itself will not be the focus of our discussion, but one significant means by which we can worship God through self-control and abstaining from what He hates.

What is 'sexual immorality'? What is fornication? After all: you've probably heard the word before – especially if you attended church decades ago before it became more popular to avoid discussions about sin and the consequences.

So, let's define sexual immorality and how it relates to '*fornication*'.

Fornication: Homosexuality; Incest; Bestiality; Adultery. We'll talk about other sexually-immoral behavior too, but these acts are specifically spelled out in the definition of *fornication*.

[**Leviticus 18:22-23**]

God finds acts of fornication disgusting as indicated by His use of the word *abomination*. Although some people will just claim that 'sin is sin', it's good to focus on things God hates when trying to learn and employ good practices.

What about sexual immorality? This labels behavior that includes acts found in the definition of fornication. But, there are other immoral behaviors related to sex that will also bring God's judgment and punishment.

Before we dive further into sexual immorality and associated behavior, let's briefly look at what anyone who practices sexual immorality (including acts of fornication) can expect at the end of days.

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We're to abstain from sexually-immoral activities

Given over to a **depraved** mind; we and God can **walk away**

No kingdom of God (heaven) for **practicing** immorality

Sex = good in **context**

Sex can be **misused** in many ways; may produce **mastery/slavery & addiction**

Other sexually-immoral behaviors:

First, we are to abstain from sexually-immoral activities. Why? It can be unhealthy and is certainly an abuse of the body and resources our God has given us.

[Acts 21:25]

Additionally, we're reminded by the apostle Paul that God gave those of Sodom and Gomorrah over to their sinful desires. It's important to understand that our relationship with God (and the Christ) is a two-way relationship – indeed, contract – and we can (and have) walked away from it and God.

[Romans 1:26-27]

Lastly, we learn that those who have allowed themselves to be given over to depravity and sexual immorality won't see the kingdom of God. The Bible is clear that we are to repent (change our bad behavior because of a change of heart) and stop practicing things that aren't in alignment with God's standard.

[1Corinthians 6:9-10]

In the right context, sex can be enjoyed exactly as it was intended to be. Sex is meant to be a pleasurable experience shared by husband wife; it's also important for reproduction.

However, the gift can be misused as evidenced by the pursuit of pleasure in the form of pornography, adultery, prostitution, etc. Chasing pleasure leaves little time for Godly and important endeavors. This focus can also lead to addiction. Besides the distasteful things we've already discussed, know also that we're not to let anything have **mastery** over us as addictions can.

What are other immoral or risky sexually-related behaviors beside those outlined in fornication? Examples include, but aren't limited to: Prostitution, sexual promiscuity, premarital sex, and chasing sensuality. Let's discuss each, one at a time.

Prostitution

Prostitution. Sexual union is meant to be a very special bond limited to husband wife. Giving ourselves in this way to a stranger for money is definitely a misuse of the gift of sex! It also cheapens the special . . .

[**1Corinthians 6:15-18**]

Sexual promiscuity

Sexual promiscuity. In context, we learn from Paul that we're not to 'wantonly bed' – or, be careless in our sexual behavior.

[**Romans 13:13**]

Premarital sex

Premarital sex. This is a tough one because you won't find specific instructions against this act. However, we can infer from the Bible that sex outside the bounds of the marriage contract is indeed sinful.

[**1 Corinthians 7:1-2 & 8-9**]

**Pursuit of sensuality =
filthy behavior**

Chasing sensuality. According to the Strong's dictionary, 'sensuality' relates to filthy behavior, lasciviousness, and wantonness. It can include other vices (chasing anything that can appeal to the senses) but we'll focus on filthy behavior as it applies to sex.

The pursuit of sensuality as it relates to sex can result in sinful behavior and addiction as we've already discussed. We can avoid this direction by taking control of our thoughts and actions. More on that later . . .

[**1Timothy 5:5-6**]

Negative consequences of sexual misconduct

Judgment & wrath!

No sexual immorality; honor God:

- Repent

- Apply God's ways; true worship

We've already discovered that those who practice sexually-immoral behavior won't enter heaven. But what can be some other negative consequences of sexual misbehavior? Let's discuss a few of these while also giving you a chance to offer some others not listed here.

- **Devalue sexual relationship** between husband and wife.
- **Destruction** of a family unit, under-population, & **ruined relationships**.
- Poor self-image or **unrealistic sexual expectations**.
- Sexually-transmitted **diseases**.
- Unwanted **pregnancy** or birth **defects**.
- **Self-centered** sex.
- **Judgment** for *practicing* immorality.

ASK FOR INPUT . . .

[Galatians 5:19-21]

[Colossians 3:5-6]

How can we avoid sexual immorality & Honor God?

Repent of sinful behavior and enter into covenant with God through the Christ (**Acts 3:19**; 2Corinthians 7:10 – repentance leads to salvation). Remember that repentance is a 'change in behavior that results from a change of heart'. Change and don't look back!

[Acts 3:19]

Apply God's ways (Romans 13:14) in true worship (**Romans 12:1**). This will help us deal with temptation before it becomes sinful behavior. While worship – assigning 'worth' to what we value – can take many forms, the greatest form is obedience to our God and Christ's commandments.

[Romans 12:1]

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Be self-controlled!

Exercise the gifts of God's Spirit, displaying **self-control** (**Galatians 5:22-23**; 2Peter 1:5-7).

The spirit created within us by the 'Father of Spirits' is meant to use the body for good works – not for the pursuit of pleasure. Self-control as given by God's Spirit can help us use the body as it was intended to be used and stay on the path of righteousness.

[Galatians 5:22-23]

Summary

Summary: If you believe our creator exists, then also believe that His ways are true and good for us. Repent of anything contrary to those ways by changing any behavior that could result in judgment and spiritual death. Learn and follow. Live and grow. Be healed . . .

You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination. Also you shall not have intercourse with any animal to be defiled with it, nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it; it is a perversion. —Leviticus 18:22-23.

But concerning the Gentiles who have believed, we wrote, having decided that they should abstain from meat sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what is strangled and from fornication. —Acts 21:25.

For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. —Romans 1:26-27.

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, no thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. —1Corinthians 6:9-10.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? May it never be! Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her? For He says, “THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.” But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. 1Corinthians 6:15-18.

Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. —Romans 13:13.

Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman. But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband. . . . But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is good for them if they remain even as I. But if they do not have self-control, let them marry; for it is better to marry than to burn with passion. — 1 Corinthians 7:1-2 & 8-9.

Now she who is a widow indeed and who has been left alone, has fixed her hope on God and continues in entreaties and prayers night and day. But she who gives herself to wanton pleasure is dead even while she lives. —1Timothy 5:5-6.

Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. —Galatians 5:19-21.

Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience —Colossians 3:5-6.

Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord —Acts 3:19.

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. —Romans 12:1.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. —Galatians 5:22-23.