

The background of the page is a photograph of a vineyard on a hill. A single, full green tree stands prominently on the crest of the hill. The sky is filled with dramatic, grey and white clouds, with a bright yellowish glow at the top. The text is overlaid on this scene.

Fornication Seperates Us From God

The Word and Prayer

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Bible verses related to *Fornication*

Fornication Defined

Fornication is having sex and not being married to each other, between the unmarried or married; indulge unlawful lust; illicit sexual practice with payment as in prostitution; illicit sexual practice of either sex; lust in the heart.

Fornication is a sin against your own body.

1 Corinthians 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.

Christians are free to be all they can be for God, but they are not free *from* God. God created sex to be a beautiful and essential ingredient of marriage, but sexual sin—sex outside the marriage relationship—*always* hurts someone. It hurts God because it shows that we prefer following our own desires instead of the leading of the Holy Spirit.

It hurts others because it violates the commitment so necessary to a relationship. It often brings disease to our bodies. And it deeply affects our personality, which responds in anguish when we harm ourselves physically and spiritually.

God will judge all sins.

Hebrews 13:4

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

Giving honor to marriage will require the utmost in Christian conviction and sensitivity. Modern social theory may redefine the family, and the new definitions may be far from its biblical foundation. What can you do? Witness to the depth of God's love for you by keeping your marriage happy and strong.

Remain faithful—in body and in mind. Pray for your spouse. Honor biblical marriage (consenting man-woman unions) by resisting political pressure to recognize and legalize other sexual preferences. Teach children the biblical meaning of marriage. Pray early for their own eventual spouses and families. Make marriage enrichment the goal of your small group discussions and study. Encourage the marriages around you to stay strong as well.

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To avoid fornication, people should marry.

1 Corinthians 7:2

Nevertheless, [to avoid] fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

Christians in Corinth were surrounded by sexual temptation. The city had a reputation even among pagans for sexual immorality and religious prostitution. It was to this kind of society that Paul delivered these instructions on sex and marriage. The Corinthians needed special, specific instructions because of their culture's immoral standards.

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In times of temptation, you will be able to bear it.

1 Corinthians 10:13

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

In a culture filled with moral depravity and sin-inducing pressures, Paul encouraged the Corinthians about temptation.

He said that:

- (1) Temptations happen to everyone, so don't feel you've been singled out;
- (2) Others have resisted temptation, and so can you;
- (3) Any temptation can be resisted because God will show you a way out.

God will aid you in resisting temptation by helping you:

- (1) Recognize those people and situations that give you trouble,
- (2) Run from anything you know is wrong,
- (3) Choose to do only what is right,
- (4) Pray for God's help, and
- (5) Seek friends who love God and can offer help when you are tempted.

Running from a tempting situation is your first step on the way to victory

Those who participate in the works of the flesh will have their part in the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:8

But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

The "cowards" are the fearful ones who abandon Christ at the threats of the beast. They fear persecution so badly that they choose temporary safety over eternal life. They are put in the same list as the unbelieving, the corrupt, the murderers, the immoral, the idolaters, the liars, and those practicing magic arts.

The blood of Jesus will cleanse you of all sin.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

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. [11] And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

In a permissive society it is easy for Christians to overlook or tolerate some immoral behavior (greed, drunkenness, etc.) while remaining outraged at others (homosexuality, thievery). We must not participate in sin or condone it in any way; we cannot be selective about what we condemn or excuse. Staying away from more "acceptable" forms of sin is difficult, but it is no harder for us than it was for the Corinthians. God expects his followers in any age to have high standards.

Possess your vessel in sanctification and honor.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4

For this is the will of God, even your sanctification that ye should abstain from fornication: [4] that every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;

It is God's will for you to be holy, but how can you go about doing that? The Bible teaches that holiness is not a state of being that you must manufacture on your own with hard work and good deeds and constant fear of failure.

Instead, being made holy occurs in the process of living the Christian life. If you have accepted Christ's sacrifice on your behalf, then you are considered holy and complete in God's eyes. Yet you must continue to learn and grow during your time on earth. The Holy Spirit works in you, conforming you to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29).

Paul said that lustful passions should not control God's people. Some argue that if they've already sinned by having lustful thoughts, they might as well go ahead with lustful actions too.

Acting out sinful desires is harmful in several ways:

- (1) It causes people to excuse sin rather than to stop sinning;
- (2) It destroys marriages;
- (3) It is deliberate rebellion against God's Word; and
- (4) It always hurts someone else in addition to the sinner. Sinful action is more dangerous than sinful desire, so desires should not be acted out.

Nevertheless, sinful desire is just as damaging to righteousness. Left unchecked, wrong desires will result in wrong actions and will turn people away from God.

Prayer for forgiveness and restoration from fornication

Dear Lord Jesus,

I renounce all sexual sins in which I have been involved in the past in the name of Jesus and seek your forgiveness.

I present my body to the Lord as a living sacrifice. I release the fire of God to burn out all unclean lust from my life in the name of Jesus. I command all spirits of wrongful lust to leave my body and mind in the name of Jesus.

I take authority over my thoughts and I bind all spirits of fantasy and unclean lustful thinking in the name of Jesus I receive my freedom now through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

References:

Holy Bible: King James Translation

Additional comments and charts are taken from: *Life Application Study Bible*. Illinois: Tyndale House 2007. Print