

Morality: Choosing God  
Lesson 10 – Fornication is a Sin

1. If You Want To Kill Your Children spiritually, don't teach them about the Sexual Relationship and Marriage.
  - 1.1. The current culture advocates premarital sexual relationships, homosexual relationships, and adulterous relationships.
    - 1.1.1. How can parents help their children combat these cultural falsehoods? Parents must begin teaching children what God has ordained for biblical marriage.
    - 1.1.2. **Matthew 19:4-6** should serve our children well in describing the expectations for a biblical, God favored marriage. Children need to understand that marriage is divine, God is the designer of it, God sets the duration, and God explains the proper subjects for marriage—a man and woman.
    - 1.1.3. These are principles Christian parents must teach their children if we want God's word to rule their hearts instead of the culture of the day.
  - 1.2. The Bible clearly says that those who practice fornication, uncleanness, and lewdness will not inherit the kingdom of heaven (**Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:3-5**). These works of the flesh spring out of an evil heart (**Mark 7:21-23**). Christians are to abstain from fornication and keep themselves pure and holy for the Lord's sake (**I Thess. 4:3-5; I Cor. 6:13**). Flee fornication is the charge of the scriptures (**I Cor. 6:13**) for God will judge whoremongers and adulterers (**Heb. 13:4**) and cast them into eternal damnation (**Rev 21:8; 22:15**).
    - 1.2.1. **Fornication** means prostitution, unchastity, and every kind of unlawful sexual intercourse outside of marriage.
    - 1.2.2. **Lasciviousness** is defined as indecent conduct, unbridled lust, filthy words, indecent bodily movements, and unchaste handling of males and females.
  - 1.3. Saving the sexual relationship solely for the marriage relationship is for our own good, but more importantly God commands it.
    - 1.3.1. Pregnancy: 1 out of 3 teens that has sex out of marriage gets pregnant. 1 out of 5 of these teens that gets pregnant do so in the first month of sexual activity.
    - 1.3.2. Sexual diseases: AIDS, etc.
  - 1.4. Relationship with each other:
    - 1.4.1. As God designed it, the sexual relationship between a husband and wife is the deepest, most intimate form of communication and giving.
    - 1.4.2. When properly expressed, it draws them closer and forms the lifelong bond of "becoming one" (**Matthew 19:5**).
    - 1.4.3. Sex was intended for a complete commitment.
  - 1.5. Relationship with God
    - 1.5.1. Sin always eats at our relationship with God. We can pray, but it won't do any good until we repent.

- 1.5.2. Why keep the sexual relationship only in marriage? Because God said so. God made the sexual relationship for husband and wife, and He set the boundaries so we won't abuse it. He knows us. He knows what will happen if we abuse our sexuality.
- 1.6. What about petting?
  - 1.6.1. Petting refers to all sorts of passionate kissing, roaming hands, inappropriate touching of the male and female body. Many couples feel that they participate in these activities as long as they abstain from sexual intercourse. They consider themselves technically "virgins".
  - 1.6.2. Petting outside of marriage falls under lasciviousness. There is no such thing as a "technical virgin".
  - 1.6.3. The Christian's character determines his or her sexual behavior and his character is determined by the holiness of God (**1 Peter 1:15-16**).
  - 1.6.4. Parents have a responsibility to train their children about sex and dating.
    - 1.6.4.1. Survey of 2,400 teens found that the younger a person begins dating, the more likely they are to have sex before graduating high school.
    - 1.6.4.2. 12 years - 91%; 13 years - 56%; 14 years - 53%; 15 years - 40%; 16 years - 20%.
2. Illicit sex is just one more departure from God's will that American civilization is facing. God identified all departures from His will pertaining to sexual intercourse as "fornication." The underlying Greek term, *porneia*, is a broad term that covers **every form of illicit sexual intercourse**, including adultery, incest, bestiality, bigamy, polygamy, bisexuality, necrophilia, and more. Our sex-crazed society is so promiscuous, and so estranged from God's view of human sexuality, that our public schools consider it appropriate to teach children to simply "take precautions" when they engage in sexual escapades outside of marriage. But God **never** encouraged people to practice "safe sex." Rather, He instructed people to exercise self-control, self-discipline, and moral responsibility. The Bible teaches that we are not to be self-indulgent. We are to put restraints on ourselves, and control our sexual urges and desires according to God's will.
3. Encouraging young people simply to "take precautions" only encourages additional illicit behavior. It encourages more promiscuity. It contributes to an increase—not a decrease—in the number of pregnancies, and sexually transmitted diseases. Despite several decades of inundating our schools with sex education, and the promotion of so-called "safe sex," the statisticians inform us that **in the next thirty days, 83,850 unwed girls will become pregnant** in this country ("Teens in Crisis," 2001, p. 1). The handling of the issue by the social liberal has not worked. In fact, the problem has greatly worsened.
4. The Bible definition of "safe sex" is sex that is confined to a divinely authorized, scriptural marriage. The depths to which our country has slumped

morally is seen in the fact that it is **legal** for public school officials to distribute condoms to students, but it is **illegal** to distribute Bibles or to teach Bible principles. The time has come for our nation to wake up. The time has come to face the fact that **freedom requires restraint**. Rights require personal responsibility. People must take responsibility for their choices, and accept the consequences of their own actions. Paul declared, “flee fornication” (1 Corinthians 6:18). He did not say, “engage in ‘safe’ fornication!” There is no such thing as “safe” sin or “safe” immorality. God said a person must run away from it, resist it, and reject it. To a youth, Paul said, “Keep yourself pure” (1 Timothy 5:22). The writer of Hebrews insisted that the marriage bed is to be kept “undefiled.” “[F]ornicators and adulterers God will judge” (Hebrews 13:4). Paul said there should not be so much as a hint of sexual immorality among Christians (Ephesians 5:3).

5. Please understand: God loves **all** sinners—regardless of the specific sins they have committed. The faithful Christian will do the same. But it is imperative that we be about the business of alerting those who are engaged in sexual sin regarding God’s will, in an effort to “snatch them out of the fire” (Jude 23), and to “save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins” (James 5:20).
6. Sexual sin undoubtedly will go down in history as one of the major contributors to the moral and spiritual deterioration, decline, and downfall of American society. One wonders how much longer such widespread unchastity can go on in our land before God will “visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants” (Leviticus 18:25). Every society in human history that has followed this course toward moral and spiritual depravity has eventually been destroyed by God. Indeed, in light of such moral confusion, our society cannot continue to survive indefinitely into the future.