

FORNICATION

FAMILY AND MINISTRY: LESSONS AT HOME PART XIII

*"For this is the will of God, even your sanctification,
that ye should abstain from fornication:"*

~ 1 Thessalonians 4:3

1. Lesson You Should Be Learning at Home: Avoiding Fornication

- a. Fornication → *"an old church word to bring guilt on people for common human instincts"*
- b. Fornication problems abound: adultery, abortion, homosexuality, gender, family, etc.
 - i. Gallup: 77% divorce, ok. 71% fornication, ok. 63% gay is ok. 9% affairs, wrong.
 - ii. Christians: 80% unmarried 18-29 yr old evangelicals do it.
 - iii. Pornography: 9of10 boys, 6of10 girls exposed to porn, 30% of bandwidth.
- c. What happened? Separated marriage & commitment, marriage & sex, sex & reproduction
- d. Fornication is a home issue, but parents 1) avoid it, 2) don't know why, 3) practice it
- e. Fornication is a Bible issue - God ordained marriage, family, and fornication destroys it.
- f. Fornication is a body of Christ issue - 1 Th 4:3-4

2. Fornication and the Bible

- a. God says sex outside of marriage is wrong, right? Where? (Exo 20:14, Mt 5:27, Eph 5:3)
- b. Fornication ~ *def.* Profaning marriage union, illicit conjugation; Gal 5:19
 - i. It is a separating, a tearing apart, what God has joined - Mt 19:6, Mk 10:9
- c. Why would God care? He is not the govt, a neighbor, but the Maker of all your pieces
 - i. God invented marriage (and intimacy in it) for good - Heb 13:4
- d. Marriage intimacy intended for:
 - i. 1) Faithfulness between two people made one together in unconditional love
 - ii. 2) Fruitful life: joy of children produced, raised, and nurtured in love
 - iii. 3) Fortitude of society: peaceful, strong, happy, responsible, selfless, pure
- e. Without marriage: fornication produces disunity, broken families, orphaned children, loneliness, isolation, depression, weakness, irresponsibility, selfishness, greed.
- f. Fornication is NOT love, it is a deception, lie, trick, a deep division in your body.
- g. To avoid fornication: marriage → 1 Cor 7:1-2, or flee - 1 Cor 6:18, 9:27; all Gal 5:16-24

3. The Will of God in Christ

- a. Fornication is not only physical, but spiritual - Ezekiel 16
- b. Sanctification is to be set apart for God's purpose: separation from fornication - 1Th 4:3
- c. Faith is destroyed by fornication (not science) → 1 Cor 6:8, Num 25:1-3
- d. Why they should avoid it? - They are one in Christ → 1 Cor 6:13-18
- e. You have been joined to Christ - Eph 4:16, fornication is in the heart - Eph 4:19-24
- f. Don't set yourself apart (fornication) from you in Christ, Christ in you - Eph 5:2-7
 - i. Faithfulness to God produced by fleeing fornication in the flesh - Gal 5:25
- g. Not simply about rules and restrictions (though those are needed)
- h. Lust is of the heart (Mt 15:19, Ro 1:21) - the purpose of the heart must change = grace.
- i. Physical infidelity starts with spiritual infidelity - grace as an excuse to partake in sin:
 - i. *"it is ok to be unfaithful if it is in pursuit of what works best for you"*-- No.
- j. This type of fidelity to Christ and our sanctified position in him starts at home.