

Questions & Answers - Wednesday Group

QUESTION #1 - Where does it say in the Bible that sex outside of marriage is wrong?

ANSWER - Exodus 20:14 says, "You shall not commit adultery." Let's look at the definition of some terms: God's word uses the terms **ADULTERY and FORNICATION, which means ANY sexual intercourse other than between a man and woman MARRIED to each other**. Some of the newer Bible versions translate "fornication" as "sexual immorality," but it is the same word in the Greek: "**porneia**." There are a lot of "modern" terms that we use for certain sexual behaviors, such as homosexual, heterosexual, pedophile, pornography, etc., which are not in the Bible. The reason they are not mentioned in the Bible **by those terms** is because those are modern, recently-made-up terms, and they were not in common use in the English language when the Bible was translated. All of those behaviors would fall under the category of **ADULTERY and FORNICATION** (see Leviticus 18 for more detail, including what constitutes incest). There is one more term, **UNCLEANNES**, which refers to all the other types of sexual activity, whether they involve actual sexual intercourse or not. In other words, the **THOUGHTS** a person has that are sexually related, and also what our modern society calls "making out." I Corinthians 6:18-20 tells us to "**FLEE sexual immorality**," which means **RUN AWAY from it**. II Corinthians 6:17-18 & 7:1 tells us to **separate ourselves** from ANYTHING UNCLEAN, and to walk in holiness and reverence to God.

•**Ephesians 5:3-4** "But **FORNICATION and all uncleanness** or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for **SAINTS**; neither **FILTHINESS**, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks."

•**I Thessalonians 4:3-7** "For this is the will of God, **your sanctification**: that you should **ABSTAIN from sexual immorality**; that each of you should know how to possess (keep) his own vessel (body) in **SANCTIFICATION** and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles **who do not know God**; that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. For God did not call us to uncleanness (impurity), but in holiness."

•**Hebrews 13:4** "Marriage is honorable among all, and the [*marriage*] bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge."

•**I Corinthians 6:18-20** "**Flee sexual immorality**. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality (fornication) sins against his own body. Or do you not know that **your BODY is the TEMPLE of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore **glorify God in your BODY** and in your spirit, which are God's."

•**II Corinthians 6:17-18 & 7:1** "'Therefore come out from among them and be separate,' says the Lord. '**Do not touch what is unclean**, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters,' says the Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, **let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting HOLINESS in the FEAR of GOD.**"

Definition: "SANCTIFICATION" — HOLINESS, PURITY, being SET APART for God and His use. The word "SAINT" comes from the same word as "sanctified" in the Greek. God is concerned not only with our outward actions, but also our inward thoughts. He wants us to be **sexually PURE**. Some people think that as long as you are a "virgin" before you get married, that's okay. They do just about everything else in the physical, sexual realm, while remaining "technically" a virgin, or technically not having actual sex. This may be the current, worldly school of rationalization, but it is not God's idea of being sexually pure.

•**I John 3:2-3** "Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we

shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him **PURIFIES himself**, just as He is pure."

• **I Corinthians 6:9-11** "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 homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers (users of abusive language), nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. **And such were some of YOU. But you were WASHED**, but **you were SANCTIFIED (made holy)**, but **you were JUSTIFIED** in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God."

NOTE — "**And such were some of you**" (I Cor. 6:11) - Paul is speaking to Christians here, showing us that **we all have a PAST life, before we were saved**, that includes sinful behavior. However, it is only by the BLOOD of JESUS CHRIST that we are forgiven and CLEANSED of those sins. A person who has NOT trusted Jesus Christ for salvation and forgiveness of their sins has NO PART in the kingdom of God. Jesus said, "Unless a man is BORN AGAIN, he cannot [even] SEE the Kingdom of God" (John 3:3). Since God says **He has WASHED us**, and **He has SANCTIFIED us** (made us holy), and **He has JUSTIFIED us** (removed our sins from us) through the working of His Holy Spirit, HOW foolish can we be to go back into sinful behavior as if it didn't mean anything?!!

• **I Peter 4:3** "For **we have spent ENOUGH of our PAST LIFETIME** in doing the will of the Gentiles (unsaved) – when we walked in licentiousness ("anything goes"), lusts, drunkenness, revelries (orgies, riots), drinking parties and abominable idolatries."

• **Ephesians 5:6-8** "Let no one **deceive you** with empty words, for because of these things the WRATH of God comes upon the sons of disobedience (the unsaved). Therefore, **do not be PARTAKERS** with them. For **you were once DARKNESS**, but now you are **light in the Lord. WALK as children of LIGHT.**"

• **I Peter 1:4** "By which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be **PARTAKERS** of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

PARTAKE means to share or participate in; to take part in something. Rather than being PARTAKERS in the SIN and CORRUPTION of this world, God allows us to be PARTAKERS of His DIVINE NATURE.

• **Romans 6:17-18** "But God be thanked, that though **you were slaves of sin**, yet you **obeyed** from the heart that form of doctrine (teaching) that was delivered to you. And **having been SET FREE from SIN**, you became slaves of **righteousness.**"

• **Romans 13:12-14** "The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk (conduct our lives) properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, **not in licentiousness and lewdness**, not in strife and envy, but put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts."

QUESTION #2 - What do you do, then, if you are in a relationship?

ANSWER - According to I Corinthians 7:1-5 & 8-9, **if you cannot remain sexually pure** in a relationship, you should get married. If you are not ready, or not in a position to get married, then you shouldn't BE in "a relationship." The Bible does not deal with the question of "dating," because that is an idea of modern, western culture. Many people are discovering that **the "old fashioned" idea of courting** is the best way for a girl and boy, or man and woman, to get to know each other before deciding on marriage. This means you ONLY see each other in well-lit, public places, or with other friends and family members nearby. God's way is for two people to get to know each other mentally, emotionally and spiritually BEFORE they decide to get married and enter a physical relationship. Satan and his world system turns that around, **deceives people into having a physical relationship first**, and it many times destroys those peoples' ability to have a good marriage. The word of God does not deal in "grey areas" - you either remain sexually PURE, or you get married and enjoy your sexuality as God originally intended it. We know that sex itself is not wrong, because God gave it to Adam and Eve when

they were first created in the Garden of Eden, when they were perfect, before sin entered the world (Genesis 1:27-28, Genesis 2:18-25).

• **1 Corinthians 7:1-5 & 8-9** "Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman. But because of sexual immorality, **let each man have his own WIFE, and let each woman have her own husband.** Let the husband render to his wife the affection due to her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control."

"But I say to the unmarried and to the widows: it is good for them if they remain even as I am (single); but **if they cannot exercise self-control, let them marry.** For it is better to marry than to burn with passion."

QUESTION #3 - What does the Bible say about masturbation?

ANSWER - The Bible does not mention it by that name (see Question #1 above), but it would be included under the category of "uncleanness" and sexual impurity. This includes the area of keeping our thoughts pure, because there are most likely sensual, impure thoughts going through a person's mind before they ever do the physical act. We need to be careful what we look at, listen to, and think about, so that our thought life is pure. Jesus says, in Matthew 5:28, that **looking at another person in a lustful way is already committing the sin of adultery.** All uncleanness whatsoever, whether adultery, fornication, or any other sort of uncleanness are works of darkness. God's word, in Ephesians 5:11-12, says "it is a shame even to speak of the things that are done by many people in secret." All these things are contrary to PURITY in heart (thoughts), speech, and behavior, and therefore are contrary to that holiness which the Lord desires for us, and even commands.

• **Ephesians 2:3** "Among whom also we all ONCE conducted ourselves in the lusts of the FLESH, fulfilling the **desires of the FLESH and of the MIND**; and were by nature the children of wrath, just as others."

• **Ephesians 5:11-12** "And have no fellowship with **the unfruitful works of darkness**, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret."

• **Matthew 5:27-28** "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that whoever **LOOKS at a woman to LUST for her** has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

• **Matthew 15:18-20** "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed **evil thoughts**, murders, **adulteries, fornications**, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man...."

• **Philippians 4:8** "..... guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, **whatever things are true, whatever things are NOBLE, whatever things are just, whatever things are PURE, whatever things are LOVELY, whatever things are of GOOD report, if there is any VIRTUE and if there is any PRAISE** – meditate (think) on these things."

• **1 Corinthians 10:13** "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, **but with the temptation will also make a way of escape**, that you may be able to bear it."

If we make an effort to keep our minds focused on wholesome, pure things, and the things of God, there will not be so much temptation to act out sexually in wrong ways. However, if we continue to watch TV and movies, and read books or magazines, that are sexually explicit, we will have a hard time. **God promises to make a way of escape**, but maybe His way of escape includes YOU getting rid of some things, throwing out some things, and changing some of your viewing habits or listening habits. Don't hang around with worldly people at work who tell dirty

jokes, or who share their sexual exploits with the rest of the office. Don't go see the latest movie if it glorifies sexual sin, or makes wrong seem normal and right. Don't put yourself in the WAY of sin, or in situations that will be too hard to resist. Romans 13:14 says, "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts." "Making provision for the flesh" means setting yourself up to fall, or with a **Plan B "just in case" you fall.**

•**Psalm 119:9 & 11** "How can a young man **keep his way PURE?** By keeping it according to Your word." "Your word I have hidden (treasured) in my heart, that I might not sin against You."