

## Doctrine of Fornication

### Revisited

1. Sexual immorality is one of the many curses associated with the Fall. This particular sin has plagued the church and the world since the dawn of civilization leading to the destruction of individuals, families, societies and empires.
2. Promoting sexual immorality for political purposes has been practiced throughout the centuries reflected in the actions of King Jehoram of Judah who “caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to commit fornication.”
  - *2 Chronicles 21:11 Moreover he [Jehoram c. BC 892 to 884] made high places in the mountains of Judah, and caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to commit fornication, and compelled Judah thereto.*

#### ***Special Note.***

Fornication. זָנָה *zanah* (zaw-naw'); a primitive root [highly-fed and therefore wanton]; to commit adultery (usually of the female, and less often of simple fornication, rarely of involuntary ravishment); figuratively, to commit idolatry (the Jewish people being regarded as the spouse of Jehovah).

3. When a nation is judged by God and then restored to favor, fornication is soon returned to as well illustrated historically in the destruction of Tyre by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and in her restoration to glory by Cyrus the Great of Persia.
  - *Isaiah 23:17 And it shall come to pass after the end of seventy years, that the Lord will visit Tyre, and she shall turn to her hire, and shall commit fornication with all the kingdoms of the world upon the face of the earth.*

#### ***Special Note.***

“The love of worldly wealth is a spiritual whoredom, and therefore covetous people are called adulterers and adulteresses (James 4:4), and covetousness is spiritual idolatry” (Matthew Henry).

4. Fornication begins with mental unfaithfulness prior to any acts of physical unfaithfulness. When spiritual fornication is committed by the people of God, it provokes Him to anger.
  - *Ezekiel 16:26 Thou hast also committed fornication with the Egyptians thy neighbours, great of flesh; and hast increased thy whoredoms, to provoke me to anger.*
5. Provided there is good health, sexual appetites are never satisfied especially when enhanced with perverted acts contrary to nature such as homosexuality, bestiality, masochism, bondage and orgies. Acts of fornication are multiplied.

- *Ezekiel 16:29 Thou hast moreover multiplied thy fornication in the land of Canaan unto Chaldea; and yet thou wast not satisfied herewith.*

6. Fornication is a legitimate basis for a biblical divorce with the right to remarry.

- *Matthew 5:32 But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.*
- *Matthew 19:9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.*

***Special Note.***

It is not uncommon to find within the church individuals involved fornication with inappropriate sexual activity between unmarried people and adultery with those who are married. The Greek word for “fornication” is more expansive and refers to general indecency.

πορνεία porneia (por-ni'-ah), harlotry (including adultery and incest); figuratively, idolatry.

7. One of the greatest insults directed against the Lord Jesus was that He was born of “fornication” or indecency.

- *John 8:41 Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.*

8. One of the first apostolic injunctions to the New Testament church was to abstain from acts of “fornication”, physical or spiritual.

- *Acts 15:20 But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.*
- *Acts 15:29 That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.*
- *Acts 21:25 As touching the Gentiles which believe, we have written and concluded that they observe no such thing, save only that they keep themselves from things offered to idols, and from blood, and from strangled, and from fornication.*

9. Those that reject the rule and reign of God are described by the apostle Paul in Romans 1 as being “filled with all unrighteousness.” Fornication is listed among the sins of unrighteousness.

- *Romans 1:29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,*
10. The confessing church, both now and throughout the centuries, has fallen into sins of sexual indecency. Sometimes, this sin of the saints is not only open but extensive in its perversion taking on the form of incest.
- *1 Corinthians 5:1 It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.*
11. The divine counsel for those who struggle with sexual sins is to remember that the body “is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord is for the body.” Whereas God once dwelt in a tabernacle or a temple, His habitation is now within the heart.
- *1 Corinthians 6:13 Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.*
12. The Biblical command comes to all Christians, “Flee fornication”. “Flee acts of sexual indecency.”
- *1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.*
13. One proper way to satisfy the natural sexual need is through the act of marriage.
- *1 Corinthians 7:2 Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.*
14. Historically, God once judged sexual immorality with the death of 23,000 people in one day (Numbers 25:9). The inhabitants of Corinth had a temple among them dedicated to Venus, the goddess of love and lust, with above a thousand priestesses belonging to it, all common prostitutes. Modern nations also are afflicted by unbridled lust, and the judgment of God is manifested against it. Today, venereal diseases afflict millions each year. With around 2.6 million people becoming infected with HIV in 2009, there are now an estimated 33.3 million people around the world who are living with HIV, including millions who have developed AIDS.
- *1 Corinthians 10:8 Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.*

15. It is difficult even for confessing Christians to cease from and repent of sexual sins.

- *2 Corinthians 12:21 And lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed.*

16. Fornication is identified with the “works of the flesh” and not with the “fruit of the Spirit.” Those who persist in acts of fornication are in danger of forfeiting heaven.

- *Galatians 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

17. Fornication should not once be named as being practiced among Christians for it does not “becometh” a saint which means it does not speak well of an orderly and well attended life.

***Special Note.***

Becometh. *πρασιά prasia* (pras-ee-ah'); perhaps from *prason* (a leek, and so an onion-patch); a garden plot, i.e. (by implication, of regular beds) a row (repeated in plural by Hebraism, to indicate an arrangement):

- *Ephesians 5:3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;*

18. In addition to fleeing fornication the Christian is to mortify or put to death inappropriate sexual urges and acts of indecency.

- *Colossians 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:*

19. It is the known and expressed will of God for Christians to abstain from fornication.

- *1 Thessalonians 4:3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:*

20. The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrha are abiding examples of God’s hatred of fornication. They serve as a fearful warning for all who will not repent.

- *Jude 7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.*

21. There are spiritual leaders who try to justify and promote what God has condemned and punished. When this is done the Doctrine of Balaam is being articulated.
  - *Revelation 2:14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.*
22. When possible the Lord commends His church but He is also not hesitant to condemn as well.
  - *Revelation 2:20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.*
23. God is gracious to give people a chance to repent of fornication.
  - *Revelation 2:21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.*
24. The heart can become so hardened that individuals not only will not but cannot repent of their sins.
  - *Revelation 9:21 Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.*
25. Political leaders who pass public policies that allow for sexual immorality will be judged.
  - *Revelation 14:8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.*
26. Political leaders can become drunk with the wine of fornication.
  - *Revelation 17:2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication.*
27. The woman of Revelation 17:4 personifies what is wrong with all political leaders who are corrupt with sexual sins.
  - *Revelation 17:4 And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:*
28. Political figures lead others into sexual sins to their shame and the disintegration of human civilization.

- *Revelation 18:3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.*

29. So desperate is the heart that the evil which people do is mourned by the same when those sins are judged and made to cease.

- *Revelation 18:9 And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,*

30. All of God's judgments are true and righteous.

- *Revelation 19:2 For true and righteous are his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand.*