

Doctrine of the Harlot

1. Harlot (Heb. *zona*; Greek *porne*) was used for any woman, married or single, who practiced unlawful sexual indulgence, whether for lust, or personal gain.
 - *Genesis 34:31 And they said, Should he deal with our sister as with an harlot?*
 - *Judges 19:2 And his concubine played the whore against him, and went away from him unto her father's house to Bethlehem Judah, and was there four whole months.*
 - *Proverbs 23:27 For a whore is a deep ditch; and a strange woman is a narrow pit.*
2. The Law of Moses prohibited Hebrew women from becoming harlots, and men from becoming a homosexual.
 - *Deuteronomy 23:17 There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite of the sons of Israel.*
3. It is possible for a harlot to be converted and to go into the kingdom of heaven.
 - *Matthew 21:31 Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. 32 For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.*
 - *Luke 15:30 But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf.*
4. The image of engaging in sexual immorality, as a Christian, should be shocking.
 - *1 Corinthians 6:15 Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. 16 What? Know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? For two, saith he, shall be one flesh.*
5. In order to attract customers while appearing to be coy, some harlots would wear a veil upon her face.
 - *Genesis 38:15 When Judah saw her, he thought her to be an harlot; because she had covered her face.*
6. Generally, the heart of a harlot is very hard and does not care what society thinks. During the days of Solomon, prostitutes practiced their trade openly in the streets.

- *Proverbs 7:6 For at the window of my house I looked through my casement, 7 And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding, 8 Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house, 9 In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night: 10 And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart. 11 (She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house: 12 Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.) 13 So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him, 14 I have peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows. 15 Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee. 16 I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt. 17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. 18 Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves. 19 For the goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey: 20 He hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at the day appointed. 21 With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him. 22 He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; 23 Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life.*
- *Proverbs 9:13 A foolish woman is clamorous: she is simple, and knoweth nothing. 14 For she sitteth at the door of her house, on a seat in the high places of the city, 15 To call passengers who go right on their ways: 16 Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: and as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him, 17 Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant. 18 But he knoweth not that the dead are there; and that her guests are in the depths of hell.*

7. Some harlots were engaged as temple prostitute (Heb. *qedesha*, to consecrate), as the prophet Hosea acknowledged.

- *Hosea 4:14 I will not punish your daughters when they commit whoredom, nor your spouses when they commit adultery: for themselves are separated with whores, and they sacrifice with harlots: therefore the people that doth not understand shall fall.*

Special Note.

Herodotus refers to the custom of the Babylonians, who compelled every native female to attend the temple of Venus once in her life, and to prostitute herself in honor of the goddess.

8. Pimping one's daughter as a prostitute was forbidden by the Law of Moses. Tragically, there are irresponsible parents.

- *Leviticus 19:29 Do not prostitute thy daughter, to cause her to be a whore; lest the land fall to whoredom, and the land become full of wickedness.*

9. Under the Mosaic Law, the penalty for even acting like a harlot was death.
- *Leviticus 21:9 And the daughter of any priest, if she profane herself by playing the whore, she profaneth her father: she shall be burnt with fire.*
10. Despite the divine prohibition and harsh penalty, the harlot class existed in Hebrew society. Not surprisingly, because of the hardness of the heart, some harlots still want to engage in religious activity and offer sacrifices to the Lord. But the Lord did not want this to happen.
- *Deuteronomy 23:18 Thou shalt not bring the hire of a whore, or the price of a dog, into the house of the Lord thy God for any vow: for even both these are abomination unto the Lord thy God.*
11. The term harlot, or prostitute, is used figuratively for spiritual idolatry, referring to unfaithfulness by turning away from the Lord.
- *Isaiah 1:21 How is the faithful city become an harlot! It was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers.*
 - *Jeremiah 2:20 For of old time I have broken thy yoke, and burst thy bands; and thou saidst, I will not transgress; when upon every high hill and under every green tree thou wanderest, playing the harlot.*
 - *Jeremiah 3:2 Lift up thine eyes unto the high places, and see where thou hast not been lien with. In the ways hast thou sat for them, as the Arabian in the wilderness; and thou hast polluted the land with thy whoredoms and with thy wickedness.*
 - *Revelation 17:1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:*
 - *Revelation 17:5 And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.*
 - *Revelation 17:15 And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.*
 - *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.*