

Doctrine of Whoredom

1. The Hebrew word for whoredom is זָנוּן *zanuwn* (zaw-noon'); and refers to the act of adultery. It is also used figuratively for spiritual idolatry.
2. Tamar, the daughter in law of Jacob's son, Judah, played the part of a harlot when she seduced her father in law in order to conceive a child and thus have an inheritance.
 - *Genesis 38:24 And it came to pass about three months after, that it was told Judah, saying, Tamar thy daughter in law hath played the harlot; and also, behold, she is with child by whoredom. And Judah said, Bring her forth, and let her be burnt.*

Special Note.

Tamar (palm tree) was the wife successively of the two sons of Judah, Er and Onan. Genesis 38:8-30. (BC c. 1718) Her importance in the sacred narrative depends on the great anxiety to keep up the lineage of Judah. It seemed as if the family was on the point of extinction. Er and Onan had successively perished suddenly. Judah's wife, Bathshuah, died; and there only remained a child, Shelah, whom Judah was unwilling to trust to the dangerous union as it appeared, with Tamar, lest he should meet with the same fate as his brothers. Accordingly she resorted to the desperate expedient of entrapping the father himself into the union which he feared for his son. The fruits of this intercourse were twins, Pharez and Zarah, and through Pharez the sacred line was continued" (*Smith's Bible Dictionary*).

The self righteousness of Judah is appalling. He was quick to judge his daughter in law for the same type of moral indiscretion he was guilty of and was willing to let her be burnt to death. It is a tragic flaw in human nature that what we condone in ourselves we condemn in others.

3. Because the heart is desperately wicked, despicable acts will take place including parents who will sell a daughter into prostitution thereby making her a common whore. God has forbidden such activity lest "the land become full of wickedness". Sin multiplies and spreads quickly.
 - *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.*
4. In spiritual language the Lord regarded Himself as "married" to Israel. *Jeremiah 3:14 Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion: As a jealous Lover, as a Righteous God, the Lord will move to destroy every man and family that dares to commit idolatry which is considered to be a spiritual act of whoredom*

- *Leviticus 20:5 Then I will set my face against that man, and against his family, and will cut him off, and all that go a whoring after him, to commit whoredom with Molech, from among their people.*
5. Physical sexual intercourse or intermarriage between a person of the Abrahamic Covenant with someone outside the Covenant is considered to be an act of whoredom.
- *Numbers 25:1 And Israel abode in Shittim, and the people began to commit whoredom with the daughters of Moab.*
 - *1 Corinthians 7:39 The [believing] wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.*
6. Once a nation begins to worship false gods, people take their relationship with the Lord lightly.
- *Jeremiah 3:9 And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and committed adultery with stones and with stocks.*
7. The Lord is acutely aware of every act of adultery, lewdness and act of idolatry which is considered to be spiritual whoredom.
- *Jeremiah 13:27 I have seen thine adulteries, and thy neighings, the lewdness of thy whoredom, and thine abominations on the hills in the fields. Woe unto thee, O Jerusalem! Wilt thou not be made clean? When shall it once be?*
8. Israel took the gifts of God's love and formed images of men in order to commit acts of whoredom with them through idolatry.
- *Ezekiel 16:17 Thou hast also taken thy fair jewels of my gold and of my silver, which I had given thee, and madest to thyself images of men, and didst commit whoredom with them,*
9. Those who engage in spiritual idolatry will perform the following perverted acts.
- They will give gifts to their idols. *Ezekiel 16:33 They give gifts to all whores: but thou givest thy gifts to all thy lovers, and hirest them, that they may come unto thee on every side for thy whoredom.*
 - They will lead others into sin. *Ezekiel 20:30 Wherefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord God; Are ye polluted after the manner of your fathers? And commit ye whoredom after their abominations?*

- They will not repent and leave sin behind. *Ezekiel 23:8 Neither left she her whoredoms brought from Egypt: for in her youth they lay with her, and they bruised the breasts of her virginity, and poured their whoredom upon her.*
 - Some will have moments of self disgust. *Ezekiel 23:17 And the Babylonians came to her into the bed of love, and they defiled her with their whoredom, and she was polluted with them, and her mind was alienated from them [in self disgust].*
10. Only the omnipotent power of God can turn a person from idolatry. In grace, God is pleased to convert some so that sin will cease, though He will not convert all.
- *Ezekiel 23:27 Thus will I make thy lewdness to cease from thee, and thy whoredom brought from the land of Egypt: so that thou shalt not lift up thine eyes unto them, nor remember Egypt any more.*
 - *Ezekiel 43:7 And he said unto me, Son of man, the place of my throne, and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel for ever, and my holy name, shall the house of Israel no more defile, neither they, nor their kings, by their whoredom, nor by the carcasses of their kings in their high places.*
11. The Lord calls upon all men everywhere to repent especially those engaged in acts of whoredom be it physical or spiritual.
- *Ezekiel 43:9 Now let them put away their whoredom, and the carcasses of their kings, far from me, and I will dwell in the midst of them for ever.*
12. To illustrate idolatry, which is spiritual whoredom, the Lord used the prophet Hosea and his wife Gomer as an example of His own relation to Israel and the unfaithfulness of the people to Him despite their covenant blessings.
- *Hosea 1:2 The beginning of the word of the Lord by Hosea. And the Lord said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the Lord.*
13. The soul of those involved in whoredom is never satisfied.
- *Hosea 4:10 For they shall eat, and not have enough: they shall commit whoredom, and shall not increase: because they have left off to take heed to the Lord.*
14. Acts of immorality take away the heart from the Lord.
- *Hosea 4:11 Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the heart.*

15. When spiritual whoredom takes place in the form of idolatry it degenerates in sexual whoredom by children and spouses. A comfortable place is found to transgress.

- *Hosea 4:13 They sacrifice [to idols] upon the tops of the mountains, and burn incense upon the hills, under oaks and poplars and elms, because the shadow thereof is good: therefore your daughters shall commit whoredom, and your spouses shall commit adultery.*

16. God does not always have to personally and directly punish individuals for their transgressions. The moral laws of the universe operate so that those who do not understand the ways of the Lord “shall fall.”

- *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.*

17. Those who will not repent will find they cannot repent for they love their sin so much.

- *Hosea 4:18 Their drink is sour: they have committed whoredom continually: her rulers with shame do love, Give ye.*

18. No sin is withheld from the eyes of the Lord, including acts of whoredom, be it spiritual idolatry or physical immorality.

- *Hosea 5:3 I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hid from me: for now, O Ephraim, thou committest whoredom, and Israel is defiled.*

19. Sin is a horrible thing.

- *Hosea 6:10 I have seen an horrible thing in the house of Israel: there is the whoredom of Ephraim, Israel is defiled.*

"Vice is a monster of so frightful mien
As to be hated needs but to be seen;
Yet seen too oft, familiar with her face,
We first endure, then pity, then embrace."

Alexander Pope