

## Sexual Immorality or Premarital Sex

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On more than one occasion, during my years in pastoral ministry, I've had couples approach me who sincerely believed they had heard from God and that it was okay with him if they lived together as a married couple. They justified this because they had made a united and verbal commitment before God that they either were, or would eventually be married.

In a world where “cohabitation” is considered normal and woven into the fabric of the cultural mindset, the church and many Christians have opted to depart from the truth of God's word and look the other way. In truth, sex outside of marriage has a Biblical word for it— **fornication**. This word comes from the Greek word, *porneia* and is the root of the word “**pornography**.” The New International Version of the Bible uses the words “sexual immorality” in the place of *fornication*.

The dictionary defines “fornication” as: *two consenting individuals having sexual relationships outside the legal institution of marriage*. In other words—*illegal or illicit sex*.

Though society condones, applauds, and even encourages premarital sex as “normal,” it is not condoned in the Bible as a normal conduct for Christians. There are reasons why God prohibits and commands us to use *abstinence* until we're married. The world fails to point out the emotional, spiritual, physical, and marital destruction premarital sex creates between couples. In reality, the healthiest and longest lasting marriages tend to be among those who waited until *after* they were married to have sex and live together.

Now it isn't as easy to just say...“Don't, don't, don't do it to believers.” We need a revelation besides God's prohibition of it. I believe the remedy for sexual immorality comes with the revelation of God's greater beauty than the creation itself (i.e. our bodies). His river of delights (Psalm 36:8) is so much more rewarding than the world's river of delights. To focus on him, to draw close to him, to keep his beauty in the path of your gaze, rather than the alternative, is to find help in your struggle against this temptation.

Make a covenant with your eyes as Job did (Job 31:1) to not look in that direction. Fix your gaze and set your affections on things above, i.e. the heavenly beauty of God and his glory (Colossians 3:2). Also, consider what David did to keep himself from being enticed; he memorized and kept God's word in his heart so that he might not sin against God—**Psalm 119:9-11**:

*“How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.  
I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.  
I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”*

**Here are some passages of scripture to consider about pre-marital sex (i.e. fornication; sexual immorality). There are some pretty strong words about it.**

### **Matt 15:19-20**

For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, **sexual immorality**, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man 'unclean'... **NIV**

### **Mark 7:21-23**

For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, **sexual immorality**, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean.'” **NIV**

### **Acts 15:19-21**

"It is my [James] judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. Instead we should write to them, telling them to *abstain* from food polluted by idols, from **sexual immorality**, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood. **NIV**

### **Acts 15:28-29**

It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements: You are to *abstain* from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from **sexual immorality**. You will do well to *avoid* these things. **NIV**

### **Rom 13:13-14**

Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in **sexual immorality** and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature. **NIV**

### **1 Cor 5:9-11**

I have written you in my letter not to associate with **sexually immoral** people— not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is **sexually immoral** or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat. **NIV**

### **1 Cor 6:9-11**

Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the **sexually immoral** nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. **NIV**

### **1 Cor 6:13-20**

The body is *not* meant for **sexual immorality**, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

**Flee from sexual immorality.** All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he *who sins sexually sins against his own body*. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore *honor God with your body*. **NIV**

### **1 Cor 10:7-8**

Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry." We should *not* commit **sexual immorality**, as some of them did... **NIV**

### **Gal 5:19-21**

The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: **sexual immorality**, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. **NIV**

### **Eph 5:3-7**

But among you there must not be even a *hint* of **sexual immorality**, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person — such a man is an idolater — has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them. **NIV**

### **Eph 5:8-11**

For you *were* once darkness, but **now you are light** in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. **NIV**

### **Col 3:5-8**

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: **sexual immorality**, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. **NIV**

### **1 Thess 4:1-8**

Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid **sexual immorality**; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate *lust* like the heathen, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit. **NIV**

### **Heb 12:16-17**

See that no one is **sexually immoral**, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son. **NIV**

### **Heb 13:4**

Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the **sexually immoral**. **NIV**

### **Jude 7**

In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to **sexual immorality** and perversion. **NIV**

### **Rev 2:14-15**

Nevertheless, I [Jesus] have a few things against you: You have people there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin by eating food sacrificed to idols and by committing **sexual immorality**. **NIV**

### **Rev 2:20-23**

Nevertheless, I [Jesus] have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into **sexual immorality** and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds. **NIV**

### **On a final note:**

God is not out to take fun out of our lives, he wants to be "Lord" of our lives. He wants us to be honorable and glorify him with our lives. He wants our lives to reflect the life and purity of Christ. He wants us to be delivered from sexual addictions and the bondage it brings and the shame and guilt it brings on us. It is not fun to contract Sexually Transmitted Diseases. It is not fun to abort an unwanted pregnancy and then live with the guilt of blood on our hands the rest of our lives. It is not fun to become a soul mate with someone who then breaks up with you and becomes one flesh with someone else. Premarital sex is only fun for a moment of passion, but not fun to suffer the consequences that accompany it. God wants us to be free, to live with a clear and clean conscience, to not defraud one another, to not take the gift of virginity away from the marriage bed on one's wedding night for the "true" love of their life if that is not you. This is nothing to be toyed with and brings with it great responsibilities. Self-control, self-discipline, and self-respect are far more valuable than being controlled by lust out of control. Years ago TCBY yogurt had a slogan: "All the pleasure, and none of the guilt." That's what fun is. When you "wait" until you are legally married. It is worth it. It is honorable. It is godly. It brings no guilt and shame.

