



Flee Fornication

1 CORINTHIANS 6:18



1. Our culture and fornication
2. Bible definition of fornication
3. What the Bible says about fornication
4. Consequences of fornication
5. Avoid fornication

1. We live in a culture of fornication

- ▶ Approximately 40% of pregnancies are in unwed mothers
- ▶ 2016 article “Majority of Americans Now Believe in Cohabitation” by Barna research group
 - ▶ “cohabitation is the new norm”
 - ▶ Cohabitation: “shacking up”; “roommates”; “living together”
 - ▶ Bible word: fornication
 - ▶ 65% of Americans strongly or somewhat agree that it’s a good idea to live with one’s significant other before getting married
 - ▶ Only 41% of “practicing Christians” are highly unlikely to believe cohabitation is a good idea
 - ▶ Millennials (born 1981 to 1996) twice as likely as older to believe cohabitation is a good idea
 - ▶ 57% currently or in past lived with girlfriend/boyfriend
 - ▶ “cohabitation is no longer an exception, but has become accepted and expected”

1. We live in a culture of fornication

- ▶ Pew Research study, 2019
 - ▶ 59% of “Christians” say it is always or sometimes acceptable for sex between unmarried adults in a committed relationship
 - ▶ 50% of “Christians” say it is always or sometimes acceptable for consenting adults to have sex not in a committed relationship
- ▶ In 1996, said to be 400% increase in cohabitation since 1970
- ▶ Nothing new under the sun
 - ▶ Lot & two daughters; Potiphar’s wife; Judah and Tamar in chapter 38; Amnon and Tamar in 2 Samuel 13; NT times, Corinth, etc.

1. We live in a culture of fornication

- ▶ Contributing factors to the prevalence of this sin
 - ▶ TV, movies, radio, internet, media
 - ▶ And government and schools are onboard
 - ▶ Philosophies of
 - ▶ Atheism
 - ▶ Humanism
 - ▶ Postmodernism
 - ▶ Immodest dress of both women and men

1. We live in a culture of fornication

- ▶ Satan's approach:
 - ▶ Desensitize people to it by making it common
 - ▶ Bombarded with images, innuendo
 - ▶ Once desensitized, people are more open to it being normalized
 - ▶ Homosexuality not only accepted as normal but celebrated as "pride"
 - ▶ Change the language
 - ▶ The soft, palatable language of the devil: "affair"; "two people in love"; "roommates"; "alternate lifestyle"
 - ▶ The Bible word: "fornication"
- ▶ Rationalization
 - ▶ Excuse-making; absolute standard rejected

1. We live in a culture of fornication

- ▶ Imagine a ship sailing in turbulent waters with waves crashing against and into the ship
 - ▶ The church is like a ship sailing in a culture of worldliness; that worldliness wants to creep into the church, and it sometimes does
 - ▶ “In a survey of ‘churched’ youth, 46% said they would have sex if they were ‘in love’.” (David Posey, “Fornication and Adultery”, Guardian of Truth, Volume XL, No.13, pp.24-25)

2. What is fornication?

- ▶ Bible word fornication translated from “porneia”
- ▶ Approximately 25X in NT
 - ▶ Thayer: “properly of illicit sexual intercourse in general”
 - ▶ Vine: “illicit sexual intercourse”
 - ▶ Arndt-Gingrich: “prostitution, unchastity, fornication, of every kind of unlawful sexual intercourse”

2. What is fornication?

- ▶ Fornication includes
 - ▶ Premarital sex
 - ▶ Extra-marital sex
 - ▶ Adultery
 - ▶ Prostitution
 - ▶ Homosexuality
 - ▶ Incest
 - ▶ Bestiality
 - ▶ Pedophela
- ▶ Fornication is more than lust; it is actual intercourse with another
 - ▶ Some men are teaching that lust is Scriptural ground for divorce
 - ▶ No. Fornication is ground for divorce. Matthew 19:9, 5:32
 - ▶ False teaching on this has led some people to unscripturally divorce and remarry, thus committing adultery!

3. What the Bible says about fornication

- ▶ Lawful (Scriptural) marriage is the only place for sexual relationship
 - ▶ Hebrews 13:4
- ▶ Fornication is a work of the flesh
 - ▶ Galatians 5:19-21
 - ▶ Those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of heaven
 - ▶ Incurring the wrath of God – Colossians 3:5-6

3. What the Bible says about fornication

- ▶ Fornication is not committed out of a heart of love
 - ▶ Fornication is not loving God
 - ▶ Fornication is not loving self
 - ▶ Fornication is not loving the other
- ▶ Fornication is committed out of unlawful lust!
 - ▶ Isaiah 5:20

3. What the Bible says about fornication

- ▶ A sin against God
 - ▶ Genesis 39:9; Psalm 51:4
- ▶ A sin against another
 - ▶ Matthew 18:6
- ▶ A sin against own body
 - ▶ 1 Corinthians 6:15-20
 - ▶ Your body is a member of Christ. Take the member of Christ and make it a member of a harlot? Certainly not!
 - ▶ 1 Corinthians 6:18
 - ▶ Gives power of the body to another, becoming one with the other one sinning
 - ▶ Defiles and disregards own body
 - ▶ Rebellion against God for the purpose God created
 - ▶ 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7

4. Consequences of fornication

- ▶ Brings shame
 - ▶ 2 Samuel 13:12-13
- ▶ Destroys influence
 - ▶ 2 Samuel 12:14; Romans 2:24
 - ▶ Loss of good name
 - ▶ Proverbs 22:1
- ▶ Physical problems
 - ▶ Romans 1:27
- ▶ Erosion of character
 - ▶ Proverbs 2:10-18
- ▶ Not easily forgotten

4. Consequences of fornication

- ▶ Gateway sin to other sins
 - ▶ Lies, deception, hypocrisy (David)
- ▶ Enslaves the heart
 - ▶ Hosea 4:11
- ▶ Destroys homes
 - ▶ Matthew 19:5-9
- ▶ If unrepented will cause one to be lost eternally
 - ▶ Galatians 5:21
 - ▶ 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

5. Avoid fornication

- ▶ If married, follow the instruction of 1 Corinthians 7:3-5
 - ▶ Render affection due
 - ▶ Do not deprive one another
 - ▶ Proverbs 5:19 – “and always be enraptured with her love”
- ▶ Flee fornication – 1 Corinthians 6:18
 - ▶ “to seek safety in flight, flee from, avoid” (flee from presence)
 - ▶ Genesis 39:13
 - ▶ Romans 12:9

5. Avoid fornication

- ▶ Make no provision for – Romans 13:14
 - ▶ Situations, circumstances
 - ▶ Dating?
 - ▶ Limit time alone with
 - ▶ Don't start down the road
 - ▶ “DO NOT ENTER”
 - ▶ Proverbs 5:7-14
 - ▶ Lots of sin on the way to fornication
 - ▶ Lusting after the other
 - ▶ Uncleanliness, lewdness


5. Avoid fornication

- ▶ Be on guard – Titus 2:12; 1 Peter 5:8
 - ▶ 1 Corinthians 10:12
 - ▶ Elders, preachers not immune
 - ▶ Proverbs 7:26

- ▶ Make up your mind now – Resolve!
 - ▶ Genesis 39:10
 - ▶ Job 31:1
 - ▶ Daniel 1:8
 - ▶ Duplicity an enemy of the child of God

5. Avoid fornication

- ▶ Guard your heart – Proverbs 4:23-27
 - ▶ Matthew 15:19
 - ▶ Philippians 4:8
- ▶ Control your eyes and your thoughts – Matthew 5:27-28
- ▶ Better to marry than to burn with lust – 1 Corinthians 7:8-9
- ▶ Women, don't wear tight clothes/pants/blouses/shirts/dresses that cling to the body like adhesive or are low cut, short pants/short skirts/short dresses, etc.
 - ▶ Do you want to be responsible for another's sins?
- ▶ Men too have a responsibility in how they dress!



“Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.”

1 Corinthians 6:18