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FOR THE RECORD	
Sunday Bible Study	31
Sunday AM Worship	42
Sunday PM Worship	25
Wed. Bible Study	26
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#### Times of Services:

##### Sunday

Bible Study:... 10:00am  
AM Worship...11:00am  
PM Worship:...6:00pm

##### Wednesday

Bible Study:.....7:00pm

##### Radio Program

Sunday:.....7:30am  
"Back to the Bible"  
AM 580 WSKS  
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We Extend A  
Warm &  
Cordial  
Welcome  
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### "FLEE FORNICATION" (Part 2)

Roger D. Campbell

The above quotation comes from 1 Corinthians 6:18 and is a message that ought to catch the attention of every person that wants to please the Lord. In our previous article on this theme we discussed the definition of fornication, saw what the New Testament teaches about it, noted some examples of it, and pointed out some possible consequences of practicing it. Let us look at other related matters.

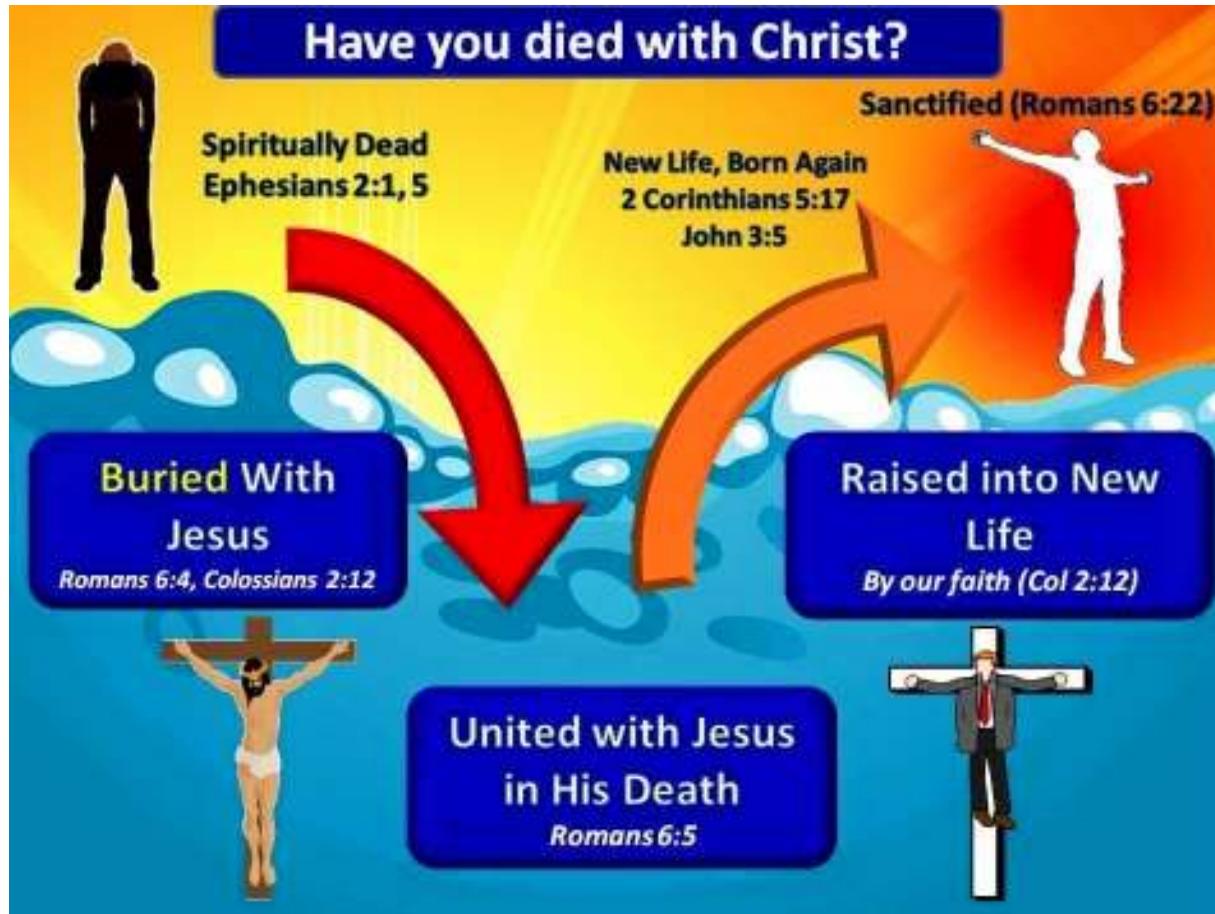
#### Some Modern Concepts And Defenses Of Fornication

"Oh no, we don't have any plans to get married. We just live together." The Bible's answer? "... ye should abstain from fornication" (1 Thessalonians 4:3).

"Yes, we are hoping to get married some day. But right now we are just living together to see if we think it would work out for us. You might call our relationship a 'trial marriage.'" Remember, Jesus said that fornication is "evil" (Mark 7:21-23).

"Only young people are involved in fornication, so there is no need to bother mature people with this topic." Really? When Lot lived in the city of Sodom, the men of that city came to his house and expressed their desire to have homosexual relations (a form of fornication) with Lot's guests. Please note that the text says that those who wanted to do this horrible deed were "the men of Sodom ... both young and old" (Genesis 19:4,5). Do we actually believe that the inspired message of the New Testament about fornication was only intended for teenagers and young unmarried people? True, young people need such instruction, but so does everyone else! "We are still young, so we need to have some fun." God's word says, "Flee also youthful lusts" (2 Timothy 2:22).

*Continued Inside*



"Everybody else is doing it, so it is no big deal." It IS a big deal when the Lord says to "flee" it, and when He shows us that fornicators will be lost in hell (Revelation 21:8). Just because a lot of people are doing something, that does not mean that God approves it. "The main thing is to practice safe sex." This is the cry of our day that can be heard from some in the medical and teaching professions, popular entertainers, and scores of others. If every person in the world supported this saying, that would still not make it right in God's sight. Good people, the only options for sexual relations that God allows are: 1) Completely abstaining from them before and outside of marriage, and 2) Having them only with one's true mate in a God-approved marriage (Hebrews 13:4). This, and this alone, is the "safe way to go" in the eyes of God.

"Sexual activity is good for one's health, so it is okay if two people who are not married to one another to have physical relations if it will help them physically." Yes, I actually have heard a Christian make this statement! It is true that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, and so we ought to be concerned about taking care of them (1 Corinthians 6:19). However, that does not give us the right to disregard what is said in the preceding verse of the text: "Flee fornication" (6:18). People are pretty desperate when they try to defend their unlawful actions by appealing to the physical benefits of them.

"I know that it is wrong, but I just can't control myself." Our God is a God of fairness. If He commands us to do something, then we have the power to carry out His instruction. He charges His children, "...abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul" (1 Pet 2:11). We not only can control our fleshly desires, but we must control them. We don't want to sound like a broken record, but how much plainer can it be: "Flee fornication" (1 Corinthians 6:18). To claim that "the devil made me do it," or "it must have been a demon in me," is a sorry effort to cover up sin!

"We are all free to express our love in whatever way we feel comfortable." Who said so? "Free love," if it means sleeping with any and everybody, is a concept that is foreign to the word of God. In Christ Jesus we do enjoy freedom (Galatians 5:1). However, such freedom does not give us the right to act any old way that we please. Later in the same chapter we read this statement from the Holy Spirit: "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh" (5:13). He then spells it out that fornicators shall not inherit the kingdom of God (5:19-21). We must never forget that it is God, and only God, Who has the right to determine what conduct is acceptable and what is not.

"I personally never have and never intend to be involved in unlawful physical relations, but I don't see anything wrong with watching it on television or listening to music in which it is mentioned." There are probably some folks who see "eye to eye" with what we have written in points 1-9 above, but are in disagreement with what we say right here. Brothers and sisters, it is not spiritually healthy to open our minds to scenes or words that depict fornication. We need to learn to be strong and wise enough to "flip the station" or shut off the machine entirely if we cannot find something on TV, radio or in our personal music CD's or tapes that is fit to watch or listen to. It is just a fact that what a person sees and hears influences him. "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23). God calls us to be people with pure hearts, and that takes effort and discipline (James 4:8). Methinks that more of us than would like to admit it have become far too lax in what we willfully "take in" with our eyes and ears. Have we forgotten how to blush?

## How Can We Avoid Fornication?

We need to spend time studying the Book to know what God says about fornication. Abstaining from every form or appearance of evil (1 Thessalonians 5:22) can take place only when we know God's will on a given matter. The Psalmist wrote, "Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee" (Psalm 119:11). That is still a mighty effective habit to develop! When we do learn God's will on this subject, we need to teach it with all diligence to our children, other family members, and our friends.

We need to meditate upon the eternal consequences of committing fornication. Fornication will keep people out of heaven and destined to eternal hell (Galatians 5:19-21; Rev. 21:8).

If one has not yet married, then he needs to decide that he will keep himself pure for his future mate. Determination to do right can go a long way in helping us practice self-control. For those unmarried people who feel that they can no longer contain their desires for physical relations, the Bible says, "Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband ... But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn" (1 Corinthians 7:2,9).

Be happily married. When one is content with his own marriage, then he will have no desire to go outside that marriage to find pleasure in the arms of another person. Regarding this point, the Holy Spirit tells husbands and wives to love one another, including willfully having physical relations with each other (1 Corinthians 7:3,4).

When the situation calls for it, we need to be ready to resist the devil with a steadfast faith, for such will cause him to flee from us (James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:9). Joseph found himself in a situation with Potiphar's wife when the only thing to do was turn and run away from temptation (Genesis 39). We need to be prepared to flee from spiritual danger.

Jesus said, "... whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matthew 5:28). Because this is so, we need to avoid those places and circumstances where we will be unduly tempted to lust after one who is not our mate. If we are striving to maintain a pure heart, then in our minds public beaches, public swimming areas, and dances ought to be "off limits." Why? Because the attire of most people in those places is immodest, or else the bodily movements are indecent. Folks, the facts are that those things cause men and women to lust in their hearts, which often leads to outward immoral acts. Label me a fanatic, outdated, radical, an old foggy, or whatever you think is appropriate, but it is just not wise to put ourselves in potentially dangerous situations. If you think you are too strong to be affected, take heed lest you fall (1 Corinthians 10:12).

We need to do all that we can to think about those things that are good, pure and holy (Philippians 4:8). "Flee fornication." What a serious charge that is! May God help us to accept His will on this subject, live by it, and teach it to others..

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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