

Moral Issues: Fornication

(Hebrews 13:4)

- Introduction:
1. For the next four weeks, we will be discussing moral issues that deal with human sexuality.
 2. I don't need to tell anyone that discussing such issues needs to be handled tactfully in order to avoid offending anyone's sensitivities.
 3. With that said, I however make no apologies for discussing such delicate subjects from the pulpit.
 - a. Everyone else is talking about it. Shouldn't the voice of the church be heard?
 - b. The apostle Paul, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, discussed this matter as much as any subject he taught.
 4. Therefore, tonight we wish to discuss the subject of fornication, a moral issue that is confronting the church today.

I. First, Note That Human Sexuality Is By God's Design And Choice

- A. God has placed within each human several natural and healthy desires.
 1. The desire for food - an abuse would be gluttony.
 2. The desire for drink - an abuse would be forbidden beverages.
 3. The desire for sex - an abuse would be fornication.
- B. Apparently some in Corinth were arguing that fulfilling the lust of the flesh (sexual sins) was natural and logical, however Paul corrects such thinking (1 Corinthians 6:13).
- C. God created man and woman and provided them with the ability and desire to procreate and upon overlooking his creation, he said that it was "very good" (Genesis 1:31).
- D. Not only did God intend for the sexual relationship to be for procreative purposes, he also intended it for pleasure (Proverbs 5:18-19; Song of Solomon).

II. Fornication: A Perversion Of God's Design

- A. (Hebrews 13:4).
- B. Fornication - illicit sexual activity with another person.
- C. A survey taken a little more than a decade ago among our kids indicated that 75% of our young people have been sexually promiscuous in some form or another (*Shattering the Silence*, p. 9).
- D. If such statistics are true, even among people who claim to be God's children, then we, to a much larger extent than we would like to admit, have failed.
- E. While there may be a multiplicity of factors causing such failure, here are a few that contributed to it.
 1. Our own moral failures.
 2. The saturation of illicit sexuality in our culture presented in a positive

light.

III. The Consequences Of Fornication

- A. (Proverbs 6:27).
- B. Temporal Consequences.
 - 1. Guilt.
 - 2. Destroyed homes.
 - 3. Disease.
 - 4. Pregnancy.
- C. Eternal Consequences.
 - 1. (Galatians 5:19-21).
 - 2. (Revelation 21:8).
 - 3. (1Peter 2:11).

IV. How To Prevent Fornication

- A. Don't feed on sexually oriented material (Philippians 4:6).
- B. Set your standards of conduct ahead of time (Daniel 1:8).
- C. Treat others with godly respect (1 Timothy 5:1-2).
- D. Choose Carefully whom you date (1 Corinthians 15:33).
- E. Remember who you are (Ephesians 5:3).

- Conclusion:
- 1. Friends, the sexual relationship is a gift given from God to man for our pleasure.
 - 2. However, outside of the commitment of marriage, such a relationship is sinful and will keep one out of heaven.
 - 3. So it comes down to a choice: Those who choose to commit fornication choose fleeting pleasure over an eternity of joy in Heaven.