

What the Bible Teaches About Sexual Sin (*Scriptures quoted from the NIV*)

***Marriage** is the state in which men and women can live together in sexual relationship with the approval of their social group. Adultery and fornication are sexual relationships that society does not recognize as constituting marriage. In the Old Testament polygamy is not sexually immoral, since it constitutes a recognized married state; though it is generally shown to be inexpedient. Monogamy is implicit in the story of Adam and Eve, since God created only one wife for Adam. Yet polygamy is adopted from the time of Lamech (Gen. 4:19), and is not forbidden in Scripture. It would seem that God left it to man to discover by experience that His original institution of monogamy was the proper relationship. It is shown that polygamy brings trouble, and often results in sin. (The New Bible Dictionary)

1. Key Words Defined

- a. **adultery** – voluntary sexual intercourse between a married man and someone other than his wife or between a married woman and someone other than her husband.
- b. **fornication** – human sexual intercourse other than between a man and his wife. This word is usually translated in the NIV as *sexual immorality* and in the NAS as simply immorality. *Fornication* includes both *adultery* and *sodomy*.
- c. **sodomy** – sexual activity with a member of the same sex or with an animal.

2. Old Testament Commands

- a. **You shall not commit adultery. (Ex. 20:14)**
- b. **If a man seduces a virgin who is not pledged to be married and sleeps with her, he must pay the bride-price, and she shall be his wife. If her father absolutely refuses to give her to him, he must still pay the bride-price for virgins. (Ex. 22:16-17)**
- c. **Do not have intercourse with your neighbor's wife and defile yourself with her. Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable. Do not have sexual relations with an animal and defile yourself with it. (Lev. 18:20, 22-23) *see punishments for such sins in Lev. 20:1-21**

3. New Testament Commands

- a. You have heard that it was said, do not commit adultery. But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. (Matt. 5:27-28)**
- b. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man “unclean” . . . (Matt. 15:19)**
- c. Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. (1 Cor. 6:18)**
- d. 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. (Gal. 5:19-21)**
- e. But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or greed, because these are improper for God’s people. (Eph. 5:3)**
- f. 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. (Col. 3:5-6)**
- g. Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. (Heb. 13:4)**
- h. But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars--their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death. (Rev. 21:8)**

***Can a person be forgiven by God of sexual sin? Of course!!!
(See: John 8:1-11, Rom. 8:1, 1 Jn 1:9)**