

The Sanctity of Marriage

by MAX SOLBREKKEN



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preaching over regular International Radio Broadcast.

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the SANCTITY of MARRIAGE

God solemnized the first marriage in the earth's history when He gave Eve unto Adam in the Garden of Eden.

Jesus Christ the Son of God, attended a marriage feast in Cana of Galilee and performed the first miracle of His earthly sojourn while at that joyous occasion. The Bible has many things to say about the wonderful union of man and wife – the privileges, together with the responsibilities are laid out very plainly in the Holy Scriptures, and in this message I would like to share many of these truths with you in the hope that it will help you to become a better Christian wife or husband, a better Christian parent or a better Christian young person. May God help you and may the Holy Spirit illuminate these truths to your heart.

THE PURPOSE OF MARRIAGE

CHAPTER I

God said "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." (*Gen. 2:18*)

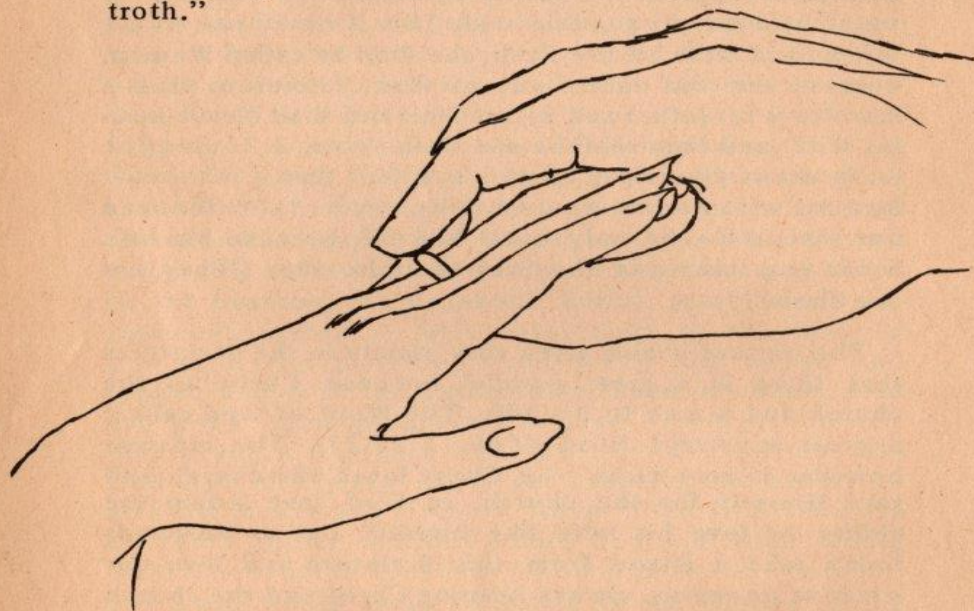
Here we find the **first reason** why God instituted the sacred rite of marriage. **God in His Divine Wisdom knew that it is not good for a man to live alone — man needs companionship and fellowship.** God called Eve a help meet for Adam, and that is just what a wife is to a man — a help meet. God wanted Adam to be extremely happy and so He gave him everything needful to create the perfect atmosphere for joy, peace and happiness. Adam would never have missed Eve if she had not been created, because he lived in an absolute paradise, but God wanted Adam to share his joy, peace and happiness with someone else. **It is important that we share the good things we have in this life with those around about us — especially is this true in the spiritual sense.** Let us spread the Gospel to those who are lost and dying — let us share the good news of Jesus Christ to the heathen, the drunkard, harlot, gambler and unrighteous person — let us also share of our material gain with the poor and needy, with the widow and orphan and with the unfortunate. Then of course, God had given Adam a capacity to love — not just to love life, beauty, fragrance and the things of nature, but God had also given Adam the capacity and ability to love his Maker and Creator. Adam loved God sincerely as a great father, and oftentimes God and Adam would commune together and have fellowship one with another. The Lord would speak to Adam in the Garden during the cool of the day. (*Gen. 2:15-17*) (*Gen. 1:28-30*) (*Gen. 3:8-19*) Yes indeed, Adam was created with a great inner yearning and longing after his Maker. (*Psalms 42:1*) Therefore, when God gave Eve unto him

it was a great and beautiful gift the Father had given to his son, Adam. Since Eve was a gift from God you can well be assured of this fact, that Adam cherished that gift. Adam loved Eve because God, his Father and Creator, had given her to him.

The second reason Adam loved Eve was because she was made out of his own flesh and blood and the scripture says "No man hateth his own flesh." (*Eph. 5:29*) Here is the account of Eve's creation: "And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept; and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; and the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; **she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.** Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: **and they shall be one flesh.**" (*Gen. 2:21-24*) The Scripture is very clear on this one fact that a man must love his wife even as his own body. (*Eph. 5:29*) If a man hurts his wife, he only hurts himself, because his wife is his very own and the Scripture also says "They are one flesh!"

The picture is also given very plainly in the Scriptures that there is a great parallel between Christ to the church and a man to his wife. The Word of God calls it a great mystery! Read (*Eph. 5:22-33*). The message however is very clear — as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for the church, so God gave Adam the ability to love his wife like himself. Let us husbands today take a lesson from this Scripture and love our wives as ourselves, always keeping Christ and the church as our great example. Then of course, the Scripture says that the wife must obey and reverence her husband, as well. (*Eph. 5:24*) (*Eph. 5:33*) When a minister performs a Christian marriage both the man and woman

must say yes to the following: "Wilt thou have this woman (man) to be thy wedded wife (husband), to live together after God's ordinance in the Holy State of matrimony? Wilt thou love her (him) comfort her, (him) honour and keep her (him) in sickness and in health? And forsaking all others keep thee only unto her (him) so long as ye both shall live?" Then both man and woman must repeat the following words after the Minister, "I take thee to be my wedded wife (husband), to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish till death us do part according to God's Holy Ordinance and thereto I pledge thee my troth."



The third reason why Adam loved his wife was because she was **MADE FOR HIM** — God has so ordained

it that a man and woman are made for each other and can love one another in a physical way. A man has a natural tendency towards a person of the opposite sex, so it is very natural for a young man to want to marry the young lady that he finds himself in love with. It is Scriptural for a man to love a woman and want her as his wife — of course, God can lead a young man and a young lady together so they marry in His will.

Marriage is a very important step in a person's life and should not be entered into carelessly, but rather with much thought, consideration and prayer. A man loves a woman then, simply because she is a woman and has the ability to love him back — he loves her because of her feminine beauty, charm, sweet personality, character, unselfishness, kindness, spiritual insight and because of her strong love towards him.

This is the way God has made us and it is natural for a man to love a woman and want to marry her. Here of course, I should stop for a moment and say this — there is no place here for immorality, sexual uncleanness or fornication among men and woman or among young people. Every person should know how to possess his vessel in honour, should flee from youthful lusts that war against the soul (*1 Peter 2:11*) and avoid fornication and immorality as a deadly plague. (*1 Thess. 4:1-5*) Sexual intimacy of course, only receives the blessing of God within the marriage bonds and becomes a curse rather than a blessing when God's rules in this matter are broken. "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." (*Heb. 13:4*)

It is not natural however, for a man to have the same sexual feelings towards a man as he has towards a woman. This is why the sin of homosexuality and lesbianism is so perverted and rotten — it is not only

a wicked, dirty and filthy sin but it is an **UNNATURAL**, abnormal and perverted practice that will bring God's swift judgment upon those who continue in this shameful vice — homosexuality is the result of a filthy, dirty mind that has thrown caution to the winds and experimented with devilish abnormal suggestions until finally Satan has possessed the mind and soul of the individual and because they have disobeyed and rebelled against God, He has given them up and turned them over to a **Reprobate Mind**. According to the Scriptures every homosexual is demon possessed and is a reprobate!!! Their minds are void of understanding and have become warped, twisted and perverted. Here is a picture of today's homosexual world as taken from God's Holy Word: "So that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their woman did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient." (*Rom. 1:20-28*)

TO REPRODUCE IN OUR LIKENESS

CHAPTER II

The second reason why God instituted the sacred rite of marriage is found in (*Gen. 1:28*), "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, **Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it:** and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." God wanted the human race to multiply and grow, and He wanted Adam's seed to inhabit the earth He had created. The Bible says that God created man in His own image and likeness. **Adam resembled God and was made in His very image and likeness.** (*Gen. 1:26-27*)

Then God gave Adam the ability or the power to create also — as God had created man from the clay in His own image and likeness, so God gave Adam, His son and creation, the power to recreate, or reproduce himself in his children through the union of marriage. This is a great miracle! The Scripture says "I have said, **Ye are gods;** and all of you are children of the most High." (*Psalms 82:6*) I believe that God who created us in His own image and likeness, and who has put within us an eternal soul, wanted us to share in His creative ability as children of God. The Scripture says we are Kings and Priests unto God; (*Rev. 1:6*) we are heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ. (*Rom. 8:17*) Also the Bible makes it very plain that when we are born again and converted from a life of sin by the power of the shed blood of Jesus Christ, **we become sons or children of God.** "But as many as received him, to them gave he the power to become the sons of God," (*John 1:12*) again in the Scriptures we read "God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father." (*Gal. 4:6*) In other words, God's will for His

children is so great that He has allowed us to help Him in the creation of the human family, which is to replenish the earth. We reproduce ourselves in our children — we create children who have a living soul — think of the greatness of it all!



Now let me give this word of admonition and warning against the abuse of this gift of God. One of the reasons that the sin of adultery and fornication is so terrible is because when one commits immoral acts he is carelessly playing with his creative ability. The sex act is reserved for married couples only and is the height of the physical expression of love between husband and wife. Due to the fact that the sex act can put into operation the birth of a baby who has a soul that will never die, it certainly is a very serious matter and must be treated with utter respect! Only those who are prepared to look after, train up, love and protect one such little life should ever indulge in the sex act. No unmarried person is in a position to bring children into the world, and so therefore sex outside of marriage is deadly wrong and can never be right! To carelessly play around with his God given reproductive and creative gift is to reject God's law and dishonour the Giver of the gift! Many young men not thinking, go about having sexual relations with young women, putting them in the family way and then they move on, leaving the young woman with an unwanted child. The young woman's life is ruined and the baby quite often grows up in an orphanage or becomes an unwanted entity around someone's home. Many of these poor little children grow up to be bitter and full of hatred for what life has given them. I want to warn every one reading these lines to respect the Divine law of God and keep your body and mind FREE from evil, and God's blessing will be your portion both now and forevermore! Yes, God's purpose for marriage is also to bring children into the world. The wonder of it all! To think that we can have a part in God's great creative work.

THE BEAUTY OF MARRIAGE

CHAPTER III

There is nothing more beautiful than a wedding — a young couple in love with each other; young, strong, healthy, courageous and optimistic — ready to climb the highest mountain or go through the lowest valley together — **unafraid and strong because of their love toward each other** — so beautiful is the picture of marriage and the wedding day that God has used these terms to illustrate His love toward us. In the Old Testament Israel is referred to as **"The wife of God,"** (*Isa. 54: 1*) In the New Testament it speaks of **Christ and the church** — Christ is likened to the groom (*Mark 2:19*) and the born again believers that form the church are likened to the bride. (*Matt. 9:15*) As Christ loved the church and gave Himself for the church, so the husband must love his wife. (*Eph. 5:25-27*) The Scripture gives us a clear picture of Christ being the head of the church, which is His body (which is the bride) and also the man being the head of the wife. (*Eph. 5:23*) (*I Cor. 11:3*) In (*Rev. 19:7*) the Bible says "For the marriage of the Lamb is come, and **His wife** hath made herself ready." This beautiful truth is so great that Paul writing to the Ephesians calls it **"The Mystery of God."**

When a man takes himself a wife the Scripture says he is joined to his wife and they become one flesh; "Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." (*Gen. 2:24*) The same unity and oneness that there is between Christ and the church, (He is the head and the church is the body) should be between a man and his wife. Let us now examine the beauty of marriage. A young man who is far stronger than the young lady he marries pledges to love, protect and provide for her until

death parts them. She has now become his property and part of his life — they are one flesh!



A story is told about a missionary couple who were saved from death because of their love for each other, a number of years ago. When **the dreaded communists** took over a certain land many missionaries were taken captive, tortured and killed. One couple was captured, thrown in jail and then the husband was given the decision of the communists — one of them would be shot at sunrise and the other one could go FREE. The communists added that the husband would make the decision and give his answer within an hour. **The hus-**

band and wife discussed the situation and the wife felt that her husband being the missionary, could do so much more for Jesus if he were to live, than she could—she volunteered to die — “No,” said the husband, “I must give my life for you, because the Bible says as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for the church, so must the husband love his wife. (*Eph. 5:25*) Of course, the communists had planned to kill them both but were just wanting to prove to each other how fickle man was and that certainly the missionary was no different than anyone else and that he would let his wife die to save his own skin. However, when the missionary came back in an hour’s time and joyfully gave his answer that he would gladly die for his wife as Christ died for the church, they were so astounded that they felt such courage should be rewarded and they set them both free. Certainly God’s hand was in their decision as well as I’m sure He wanted to reward his faithful Christlike servant.



THE BLESSING OF MARRIAGE

CHAPTER IV

The blessing of God attends every Christian marriage. This same great blessing graces every home where Almighty God is worshipped, where the Name of Jesus is honoured, where the Holy Spirit is revered and where the Bible is read and believed. When God solemnized the wedding ceremony of Adam and Eve, He blessed them and gave them dominion over many things. (*Gen. 1:28*)

When children are born into a Christian home the blessing of God continues to flow and to cover the children. Hear what God says in His Word concerning this: “Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.” (*Ex. 20: 3-6*) Here God lays out His Ten Commandments and gives a very easy to understand statement of who will receive His blessing and who will instead of a blessing receive a curse. The children of the people who hate God and disobey Him will receive the fruit of their parents’ iniquity unto the fourth generation but God said He would show mercy unto thousands of them that loved Him and kept His commandments. We who serve the Lord automatically have earned God’s blessing for our children and their seed after them. Praise God! The blessings of God are also poured out upon the children where one of the parents is unsaved but the one is faith-

ful to God. "For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy." (*I Cor. 7:14*)

Often wives of unsaved husbands will come to me and share a story of grief and woe because of the way their husbands are treating them in an abusive or immoral way. Many times Christian girls have disobeyed God's clear cut commands to marry only in the Lord (*II Cor. 6:14*) and have married an unsaved man. After a short while their hearts are broken as their husbands are beating them, refusing them the opportunity to attend church, drinking frequently, running around with other woman and many other things. The only answer I can give to those in situations like this is to pray earnestly to the Lord for their conversion, while they live a pure, loving and consistent Christian life, keeping a sweet spirit in all things. There are however, times when the authorities should be called in to protect the wife and children from a drunken beast of a husband and father who would harm, maim or even kill in his drunken stupor. Under conditions like this the poor wife should contact her parents, her pastor and either a lawyer or a policeman. However, prayer prevails and under normal situations I believe the Christian can win his or her wife or husband to Christ.

Some time ago I heard a very moving story about a woman in a pagan village who won her husband to Christ this way; here is the account of it: It seems that a certain tribal woman who was the wife of a very wicked and ungodly man was converted to Jesus Christ through the efforts of a missionary. Finally, this man even refused his wife the opportunity to attend church services with the threat of a beating if she did. She so loved to attend the church services that she disobeyed and received many beatings. Her husband burned her

Bible and anything religious which was in the house and even threatened to shoot the missionary who had brought her the Gospel. She never complained, argued or fought back at him, but kept sweet and prayed daily for his conversion. Often in a drunken stupor he would beat her and publicly disgrace her by dragging her by the hair for several blocks in full view of the neighbours. She only cried and prayed more fervently for his deliverance. After approximately two years of this abusive treatment, suddenly one night God got a hold on him and he was gloriously converted and filled with the Holy Ghost. She had loved him into the Kingdom of God! When everyone asked her how she did it, she replied: "Every time he beat me I would do something to please him, like polishing his shoes or cooking his favourite dishes — when he cursed me, I told him I loved him and when he had dragged me by the hair in front of the neighbours, I would reciprocate by doing something extra nice for him." He finally was so moved upon by her Godly life that he accepted the Gospel for himself. Read what the Scripture has to say about this subject: "If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace. For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?" (*I Cor. 7:12-16*)

THE PURITY OF MARRIAGE

CHAPTER V

There are those who advocate that sex in marriage is impure and something which is almost a sin — some women especially feel condemned or guilty after engaging in sexual activities with their husbands. There could be nothing farther from the truth! Marriage is ordained of God and blessed of God and is an absolute wholesome normal state for a man and his wife to live in. Sex in marriage is absolutely pure and wholesome in the sight of God! Here are the Scriptures on the subject: "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." (*Heb. 13:4*) Now notice the Word of God says marriage is honourable in all of its aspects, which includes the sex life as well — however, God issues a very strong warning concerning his judgment upon adulterers and whoremongers who carry on in sexual activities outside marriage. Sex of course, is only one aspect of married life but it is however, a very important one. I have found in counselling with many people in various parts of the globe that the sex problem in married life is the greatest one and the one that causes more marriages to break up than any other! It is very important then that Christian husbands and wives work out their own problems with God's help and with counselling from a Christian pastor who is acquainted with God's Word. (I see no reason why Christian people have to visit psychiatrists or unsaved marriage counsellors for advice when the answers are in God's Word and when they can go to a Full Gospel (Pentecostal) minister for private spiritual guidance in these matters also).

DEFRAUD YE NOT ONE THE OTHER

CHAPTER VI

"Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency. But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment. For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that. I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I. But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn." (*I Cor. 7:1-9*)

One of the greatest weapons that a woman has against her husband is her ability to give her body to him completely and lovingly in the sex act or to **REFUSE** him this privilege. Many times if an argument arises in the home, a wife will use this weapon against her husband — she will refuse to sleep with him, or will poutingly become **FRIGID** and turn her face to the wall in a stubborn streak **TO TEACH HIM A LESSON!** In our Crusades around the world, broken-hearted husbands or wives have come to me in numerous instances telling me that their homes are about to be broken up, or one party is beginning to entertain immoral thoughts concerning other men or women simply because their

wife or husband is stubbornly refusing to forget past quarrels and **forgive**. I believe it is nothing more or less than the **spirit of pride and stubbornness** that has taken hold of these people, together with the fact that they are **immature and ignorant** concerning marriage. If these people would only realize that when they treat their husbands or wives wrongly they are only hurting themselves, since **married couples are one flesh** according to the Bible.

Secondly, they are driving a wedge between themselves and the one they love by their stubbornness, which could eventually break up their marriage. That is why Paul writes so strongly against **DEFRAUDING** one another in this respect! Read (I Cor. 7:35) as quoted in Chapter VI.

NOTICE the Bible says that the wife has power over her husband's body and the husband has power over his wife's body in this regard. Here is where mutual love and respect comes into operation between husband and wife! Also notice how that Paul warns of incontinency leading to temptation by Satan. Let us stick with the scriptures and not with the old superstitions, fears or man made rules in regard to sex in married life.

As we are to give ourselves completely and wholeheartedly to Christ, so the wife is to give herself without reservation to her husband in confidence, love, faithfulness and respect. As Christ loved the church and gave Himself for the church, so the husband is to love, cherish, protect and care for his wife in all purity and godliness. This is the mystery spoken of in the Bible concerning Christ and the Church. (Eph. 5:32)

THE SIN OF ADULTERY AND FORNICATION

CHAPTER VII

The Bible has much to say on the sin of **unfaithfulness or adultery** in marriage and the sin of **immorality or fornication** in the lives of the unmarried. Daniel Webster gives this definition for these two sins. **Adultery**: "Violation of the marriage-bed; sexual commerce by a married person with one who is not his or her wife or husband."

Fornication: "The incontinence or lewdness of unmarried persons, male or female."

Here is what the Bible has to say on this subject: "I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with **fornicators**: Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. **But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.**" (I Cor. 5:9-11) "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God; Be not deceived: **neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.**" (I Cor. 6:9-11) "Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body." (I Cor. 6:13)

"But **fornication**, and all **uncleanness**, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; **neither filthiness**, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. **For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.**

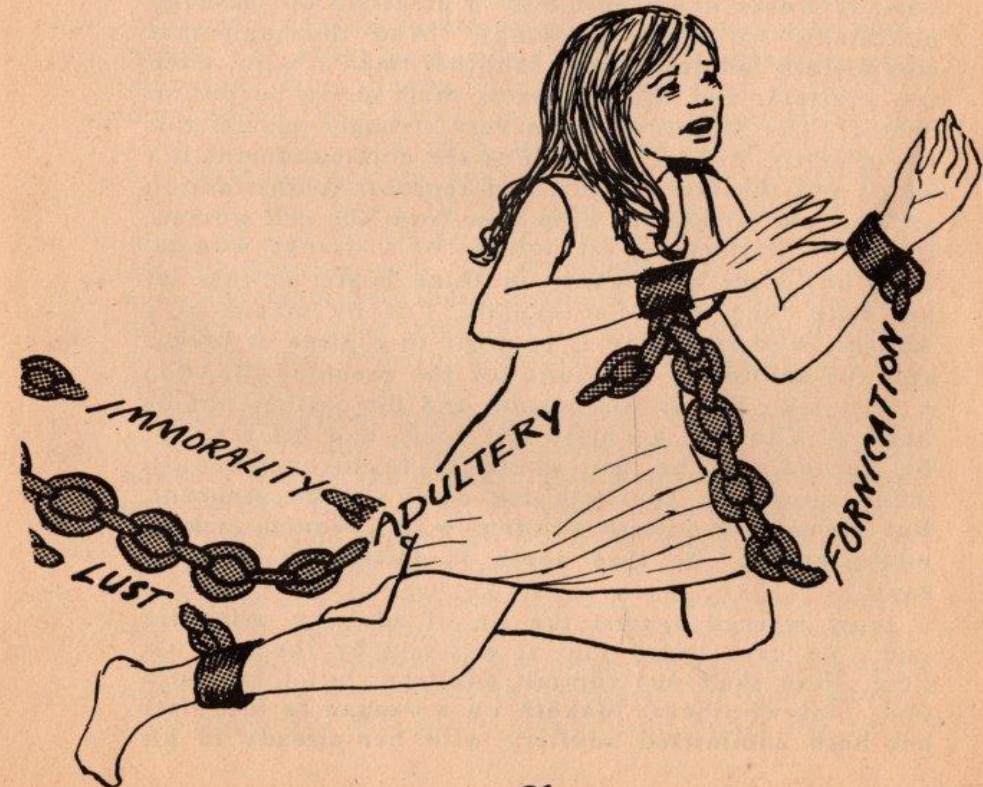
Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. **Be not ye therefore partakers with them.**" (*Eph. 5:3-7*)

We who are saved and born again by the Spirit of God are washed from our sins in the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ. Our bodies have become **temples of the Living God**. The Bible warns, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." (*I Cor. 3:16-17*) The Apostle Paul in writing further to the Corinthian church spoke about the sin of a Christian committing adultery or fornication with a sinner woman, "Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. What? know ye not that **he which is joined to an harlot is one body?** for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. **Flee fornication.** Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (*I Cor. 6:15-20*) "Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband." (*I Cor. 7:1-2*)

To the **new converts** among the Gentiles the church in Jerusalem sent letters telling them what they should not do. There were four things that they should stay

away from in order to obey God in the new **Christian way!** These four things are found in (*Acts 15:29*) "That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from **fornication**: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well."

Again in (*Rev. 21:8*) we read of **God's judgment** against **fornicators and adulterers**: "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and **whoremongers**, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."



THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY

CHAPTER VIII

The sin of adultery was of a serious enough nature to earn a place of warning in the **Ten Commandments** which God wrote with his own finger (*Exodus 31:18*) on tables of stone, and gave unto Moses to give to the children of Israel! **The Seventh Commandment** says, "**Thou shalt not commit adultery!**" (*Exodus 20:14*)

This was not light talk on the part of God, but rather a stern warning against the one indulging in it. In the **Law of Moses** it was not only a great sin but actually punishable by death (stoning); "And the man that **committeth adultery** with another man's wife, even the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death." The Scriptures warn very strongly against this sin in (*Prov. 6:23-29, 32*) "For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life: **to keep thee from the evil woman**, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman. **Lust not after her beauty in thine heart**; neither let her take thee with her eyelids. For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life. Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned? **So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent. But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.**"

Jesus warned against the sin of adultery when He said "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, **thou shalt not commit adultery**: but I say unto you, that whosoever **looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his**

heart." (*Matt. 5:27-28*) It is little wonder then why the Apostle Paul would write "Whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." (*Heb. 13:4*)

FIVE REASONS WHY ADULTERY IS WRONG!

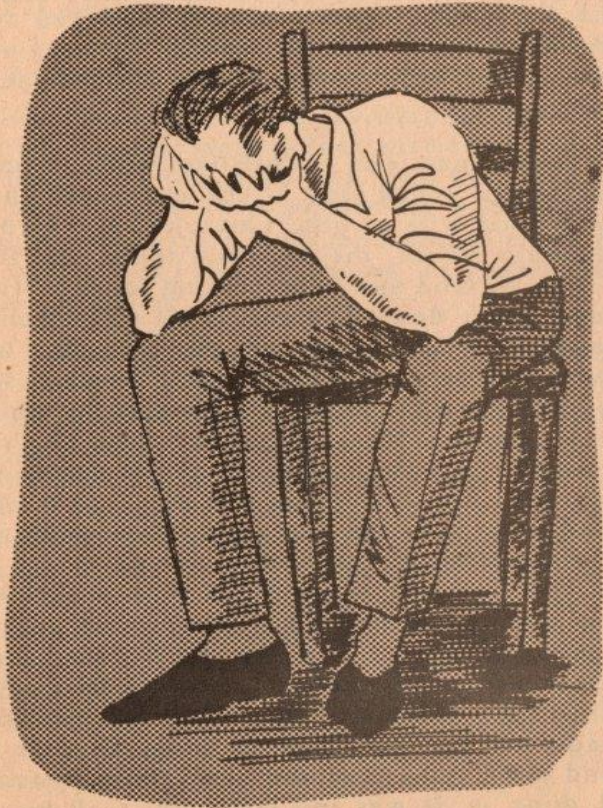
No. 1 — Because God has categorized it as sin.

The Lord God who created mankind has defined the act of **adultery** as a **sin** so evil that it will separate the **adulterer** or **adulteress** from God and will automatically bring the punishment of Hell Fire at the Judgment of God. "**But whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.**" "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither **fornicators**, nor idolaters, nor **adulterers**, nor **effeminate**, nor **abusers of themselves with mankind**. Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you; but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." (*I Cor. 6:9-11*) "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the **abominable**, and murderers, and **whoremongers**, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." (*Rev. 21:8*)

God has given commandment to the people not to commit this act — **anyone who commits the sin of adultery breaks the Seventh Commandment and surely will invoke the wrath of God.** Someone may say, "But we are not under law but under grace, so therefore we do not need to keep the Ten Commandments." Even if that were the case, listen to the words of Jesus on the subject: "**But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.**" In other words, God expects a straighter, cleaner and holier life from

will have a reminder that he sinned against God when he broke the Seventh Commandment! He will continue reaping for years to come, the results of his sin — he will never forget it or be free from its consequences even though God has completely forgiven and forgotten his sin.

I repeat, the second reason why adultery and fornication is wrong is because the marks it leaves upon a life can never be erased. Because of one night's fun



and frolic, many young girls have found themselves pregnant and expecting a baby that they didn't want or were in no position to care for or raise. Many a young girl has had her name defamed, her reputation spoiled and her career ruined because of her indulgence in pre-marital sexual relations. Many men do not know who and how many children they have because of their evil, wicked, selfish and ungodly deeds of sowing to the flesh. In the end it catches up with them — because the Bible says: "**Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.** For he that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." (*Gal. 6: 7-8*)

Yes, the sin of adultery leaves scars that never will be removed even though God has forgiven the sin! Many children do not know who their daddy is because of the demon of lust that has entered into people who, with no respect or care for anyone else throw caution to the winds, turn their backs on the clear teachings of God's Word and for the sake of gratifying their own flesh commit this unholy act. If for no other reason than to think about the poor unfortunate babies that are born out of wedlock, you would think everyone would refrain from indulging in sexual relations outside of marriage.

No. 3 — Stains on the conscience and memory.

As much as a person tries to forget his past sinful life there are times when the devil brings these thoughts back to him again. It is true that when a sinner repents of his sins and confesses them to God, he is forgiven and justified by the grace of God and the power of the Blood of Jesus, and even God forgets his sins; (*Heb. 8: 12*) however, the person never really forgets all the

unfortunate and evil doings of his previous life. It may seem like a **bad dream** off in the distant past, but it is there nonetheless to haunt the believer at times. Sometimes the devil would try to bring up a person's past life to **accuse and discourage** him into a life of spiritual defeat, and at other times he would try to **arouse unclean and immoral thoughts** to invade the person's mind in remembering past immoral acts with old associations. **My advice is this:** for you who have never indulged in any form of sexual promiscuity **DO NOT BEGIN!! Stay pure, clean and chaste in your conscience and memory;** for you who have lived an unclean life in the past, please ask God to cleanse and wash you in the Precious Blood of Jesus, then **fill your mind with the Word of God, thus driving out evil thoughts or imaginations. Defeat the devil with the Word of God.** Use the scripture against him and bring every evil thought, suggestion or memory into captivity by using the **Mighty Name of Jesus Christ in commanding prayer.** Here is a **powerful weapon against evil thoughts:** "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." (*II Cor. 10:4-5*) The scriptures give us the remedy in overcoming lusts. Here it is "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word." (*Psalms 119:9*)

No. 4 – You will become a second hand commodity.

Often as you go to certain Department Stores you will see a bin of clothing on special. The sign will read: "**Slightly soiled, greatly reduced!**" People will dig through the already rumpled pile to find something that interests them. These "**slightly soiled specials**"

certainly are not treated with care as they are tossed about by feverish shoppers hunting for bargains. Any clothing which has been used is worth only a fraction of its **new price value.** After a person has purchased a brand new automobile and has driven it around the block once, it is then considered a used car and has depreciated in value.

It is the same with a young lady who has **been handled by every Tom, Dick and Harry.** She is a **used item** and certainly does not bear the value of a young lady who has kept herself from the life of a party girl. Once a young lady has given herself to a man and has been **fondled and petted and seduced,** she will never be a **VIRGIN AGAIN** and her chastity has been marred forever. One lustful sex act will rob a young lady of that Godly characteristic of being a virgin.

The young man who eventually marries such a young lady will know that he is only receiving the **second best,** since her first love was given to another man. **Slightly soiled – greatly reduced in price.** Young men who are **play boys** like to take away a young lady's purity and commit fornication with any or all, but that same young man wants his future wife to be pure and chaste in her living. He may desire a cheap worldly woman for a girl friend, but he always wants a pure girl to be his future wife. **My advice to all girls and young ladies** is not to allow any temptation to rob you of your purity and your virginity, until the day when you can shamelessly meet your husband-to-be at the "**Altar of Marriage,**" and say "**I do**" for the rest of your life. **Better still – do not place yourself in a position where you will jeopardize your purity by being tempted.** Have no dates with sinful, sensually minded men, but rather seek to fellowship and have company with good Christian, Spirit-filled young people.

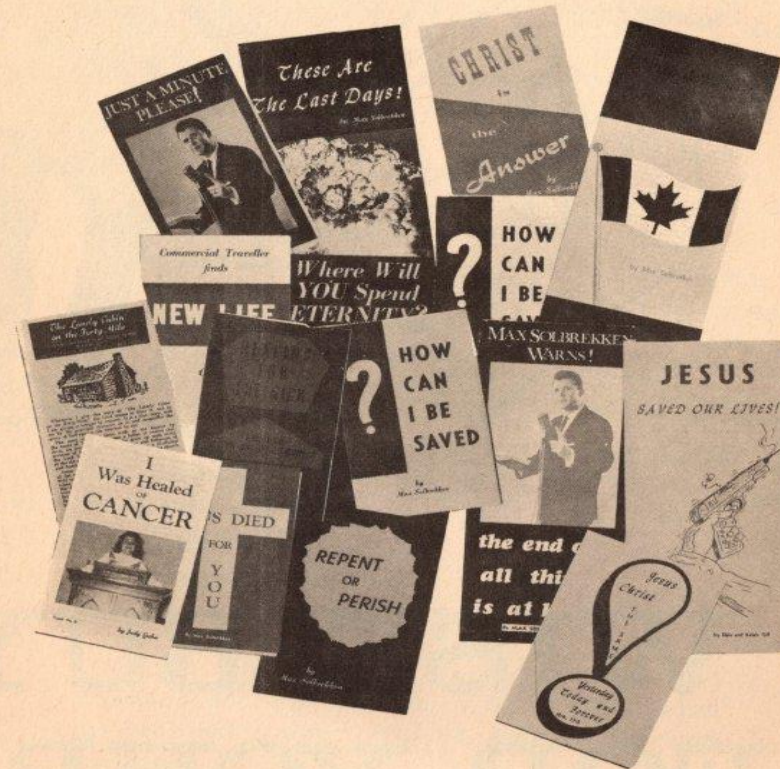
My advice to young men is this: keep yourself pure; do not become entangled and involved with the lusts of the flesh which lead into immorality; treat the girls and young ladies with respect and purity, remembering that God sees every action and hears every conversation. If you try to deceive the young lady and seek to rob her of her chastity to satisfy your own fleshly lusts God will deal with you and you will not escape His judgment. Remember that you will pay for your sins and *"The wages of sin is death."* (Rom. 6:23)

No. 5 — You will regret it the rest of your life.

Once you have spilt the milk you can never gather it back into the pail again. It is gone forever, and so it is with your chastity, purity and virginity. Once you have lost it, it is gone and you will never be a virgin again. There was an old song that went like this: "My son calls another man Daddy." I have often thought how true to life that really is. Many times, **irresponsible young men and woman** have foolishly done things they have **regretted** for the rest of their lives; young girls with unwanted babies; young men sowing their wild oats everywhere; scars on their lives and stains on the conscience and memory forever, as the results of an **undisciplined, carnal and devil guided life!** You will never regret keeping your life clean, but you will regret it hundreds of times if you serve the lusts of your flesh and commit immorality.

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