

THE BEACON OF TRUTH

June 17, 2018

“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” John 17:17

What Does the Bible Say About Fornication?

Chase Green

Note: This is the sixth in a series of articles regarding moral issues, entitled “What Does the Bible Say About...”

Merriam-Webster.com defines fornication as follows: “consensual sexual intercourse between two persons not married to each other.” Thus, fornication would include premarital relations, homosexuality (despite attempts to change the definition of marriage), adultery, and bestiality (commission of the act upon an animal), as well as rape (upon the part of the assailant).

Fornication does not occur when the Scripturally married couple consummates their marriage in a “one flesh” union (Gen. 2:24; Mark 10:8). This union is good and acceptable and ordained by God (Heb. 13:4). A newly married couple should not be ashamed of the pleasures of marriage.

But sadly, our world full of sin has taken sexual intimacy out of its proper context and has stated that it is acceptable virtually anywhere. Long gone are the days when people blushed at this sin (Compare today’s times with the days of Jeremiah and you will see that this has been going on for ages; Jer. 6:15). Sexual sins used to be against the law in our country, but most are now accepted — adultery and homosexuality alike used to have strict punishments enforced; not so any longer! One must wonder when eventually our evil, tolerant, hedonistic society will even begin to accept things like bestiality, incest, and rape. Only time will tell.

The Bible is clear in its condemnation of fornication. “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness (these last two being closely associated with fornication), ... and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God” (Gal. 5:19-21).

One must take extreme precautions to avoid this sin. God designed us to be sexually attracted to the opposite sex, but He regulated this to only be fulfilled within the confines of marriage. Because of our tendency to have such strong physical attractions, we must be extremely careful to guard against sexual temptation. Not only does the Lord condemn the act of adultery, but the lust that leads up to the act: “But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart” (Mat. 5:28). (cntd. On pg. 2)

By the Numbers:

Week of 6/10/18

Contribution – \$2108

Attendance:

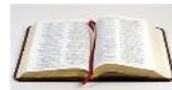
Sunday School – 29

Sunday Worship* – 34

Wednesday Night – 33

*Total for the day

Bible Trivia Question



Last Week’s Answer: The church at Sardis (Rev. 3:2).

Q: Which congregation needed to repent of her lukewarmness?

Answer to be given next week!

Sermon Spotlight:

AM: The Church at Philadelphia

- 1) What are some things this congregation was doing right?
- 2) Why is nothing negative said about this church?

PM: The Greatest Commandments

- 1) What are the two greatest commandments?
- 2) If we follow these two, will we do our best to follow them all?

Schedule Of Services

Sunday
Bible Study 9:45 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M. & 2:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible study 7:00 P.M.

Website

Beaconofcfc.com (under construction)

Preacher

Chase Green
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Ronnie Gootam - India
Marlon Relana - Panama
Brad Harrub - Focus Press

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WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED

1. Hear the Gospel (Jn. 20:30-31; Rom. 10:17).
2. Believe (Rom. 1:16; Acts 18:8; Heb. 11:6).
3. Repent (Lk. 13:3; 24:47; Acts 3:19; 17:30).
4. Confess Christ (Matt. 10:32, 33).
5. Be baptized (immersed) (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16).
6. Continue faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10).

Mailing Address

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

NEWS AND NOTES
TO OUR GUESTS—A WARM WELCOME

Thank you for coming today and please come back soon and often. If you have questions about the church of Christ, what is taught here, or the way we do anything please feel free to ask. Please fill out the Guest Register on the table in the foyer so we may have a record of your visit.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Dewey Young — Margie Tippen — Buster Keeton — Ruth Coston — Regina Simmons — Wendy Traweek — Lisa Morris — Mildred Allhands — Marcia Green — Judy May — John Motherspaugh — Kenneth Hendrix (recovering from surgery) — Andrew Brown (away at an internship in Indiana)

OTHER THINGS & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Monthly Fellowship Meal — Every 4th Sunday unless otherwise noted
- Youth & Young Adults — Be on the lookout for monthly get-togethers! Our next get-together is scheduled for June 29th at Jarrod and Bessie's house — (If you would like to host or help with an event, please let Chase know)

(Continued from page 1)

The Bible is also clear that we must flee from any such opportunity that arises. "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" (1 Cor. 6:18-20, emphasis mine; see also 2 Tim. 2:22; 1 Pet. 2:11; Gen. 39:12).

In the very next chapter, Paul warned the Corinthians that even though marriage was difficult during the current distress (a strong persecution), it would be much better for the Corinthians to marry, rather than to continue to burn in their lust (1 Cor. 7:9). Paul was warning of the dire spiritual consequences of committing fornication, thus pointing toward the only acceptable outlet for sexual desires — marriage (Again, Heb. 13:4 cf. 1 Cor. 7:2).

Again, the Bible is very clear that fornicators will be punished. Besides Gal. 5:19-21, we can read the same thing in 1 Cor. 6:9-10, Rev. 21:8, and Rom. 1:18-32. How many people, including Christians, like to "play with fire" regarding fornication? Sometimes they want to get as close as they can without actually committing the act. But eventually, they end up committing it. Why? Because, as Solomon pointed out, "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" (Prov. 6:27-28). The answer to this rhetorical question is obvious, and so is the impending judgment: "So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent" (verse 29).

With love, Chase

Sometimes, Just a Little Talk Makes It Right

Chase Green

Most of us have heard the song, "Just a Little Talk with Jesus." We no longer sing this song, as one has rightfully pointed out that this song affirms the Sinner's Prayer. No, "just a little talk with Jesus" does not make it right. But sometimes, a short talk with someone may make other situations right.

This past Monday night, the world watched in awe as two powerful leaders came together in Singapore to discuss the de-nuclearization of North Korea. After decades of hostility and a war that never technically came to an end (only a ceasefire), what seemed like an impossible dream came true on Monday night. While only time will truly tell whether or not the North Korean dictator will keep his word, one could not help but feel more hopeful for peace in Korea in the not so distant future. It is truly amazing what a little talk (just a few hours in this case) can accomplish!

I am reminded of Jesus' teaching on this subject. In Matthew chapter 18, Jesus gives us our protocol for how to handle conflict. "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican" (Mat. 18:15-17).

Jesus shows us the power of "talking it out." How many bitter confrontations and church disputes could be avoided if Christians would come to one another in brotherly love to talk things out? If there were more Christians in the world, and if those Christians followed this protocol, how much violence could be avoided? How many wars could have been prevented?!

Let me mention another scenario when a little talk with our brethren makes things right. The Bible teaches that when a Christian is struggling with sin, he needs to go to his brethren for prayers and support. "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16, emphasis mine). The context of this verse is talking about prayer and its power to heal the sick, not only the physically sick, but the spiritually sick as well! James goes on to write: "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins" (verses 19-20, emphasis mine). We have a spiritual obligation to pray for one another, to help one another in our various battles with sin, and if we are struggling with something, we have a spiritual obligation to seek help from one another. That's one of the reasons it is so important for us to meet together on a regular basis (Heb. 10:25)!

Let us all think about these things, and let us talk to one another, rather than just keeping everything bottled up to ourselves! You might be surprised what a difference it can make! With love, Chase

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

"Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house."

Matthew 5:15

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