

moral failure. The wages of lust is more lust! The wages of touching is more touching! Each step a man takes in touching leads him closer to the uncontrollable explosion of getting too close to the gas can!

CONQUERING SEXUAL SINS --The pleasures and responsibilities of marriage were designed by God to be a living testimony of His salvation through Christ (Eph. 5:22-27). For this purpose the sexual relationship is to be kept sacred and only fulfilled within the holy vows of marriage. God declares that when the sexual relationship is properly carried out within marriage that the "bed is undefiled" (Hebrews 13:4) Any other bed is defiled and consequently brings God's judgment. God warns that the sin of fornication is more destructive than other sins (1 Cor. 6:18). Because of the ruinous nature of sexual lust, God warns youth to "flee youthful lusts" (2 Tim. 2:22) The fires of sexual lust can only be conquered as we "...put...on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts (Rom. 13:14). The person who reads pornography, watches the filth on TV, and reads the trash of the gossip magazines will never be able to have victory over lustful desires. When our mind is entertained by sensual thoughts; it's like putting gas on a fire. The fire becomes uncontrollable. Each thought we have must be brought captive to the holiness and purity of Christ (2 Cor. 10:4,5). The wisest man in the world (Solomon), the strongest man in the world (Samson) and the man after God's own heart (David) all fell prey to immorality! This should challenge each of us to the seriousness of conquering this sin. Any person who sincerely desires moral freedom in his life should begin today to memorize and meditate on the rich truths of Proverbs 7.

God gives us several notable examples of those who fell prey to sexual lust and through God's mercy and grace found their way to repentance and freedom. In John 4 the lady at the well found forgiveness and freedom through coming to know the Messiah Jesus Christ. In John 8:1-11 the woman taken in adultery is granted a new start to "...go and sin no more..." (John 8:11). Read Psalm 51 to see the heart of a repentant David who was seeking God's cleansing from his sexual misconduct with Bathsheba. Particularly note that David has genuine repentance for his sin. Many are sorry for their sin -- sorry they got caught, sorry they got a disease, sorry the girl got pregnant etc. Repentance is more than sorrow for the damage I've brought upon my life and others. Genuine repentance recognizes and acknowledges that I have been living in rebellion towards my creator. David confessed: "Against thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight..." (Psalm 51:4). The root problem of any sin is the middle letter of the spelling of the word "sin" -- s I n. "I" have refused to surrender "my" life to God and allow Him to be the boss of my behaviour. Maybe I know Jesus as my Saviour, but I have refused to yield to His Lordship over my life. Genuine repentance that brings cleansing and a renewed right spirit within a person must include a surrender of MY WILL to HIS WILL.

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THE CORNERSTONE

BIBLICAL ANSWERS TO CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

A BIBICAL UNDERSTANDING OF SEXUAL VIOLATIONS

Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate (male prostitute), nor abusers of themselves with mankind (homosexuals), nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 1 Cor. 6: 9,10

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Our society has accepted a morally permissive attitude towards sexual activity. All forms of immorality are glorified through TV, videos, movies, magazines, and billboards. Pornography is now readily available at the local convenience store. Sodomy is now termed an "alternative lifestyle"; God calls it reprobation and perversion (Romans 1:24-32). A teen committing the sin of fornication is described as "sexually active". Notice that this term remains morally neutral! Through our present "no fault" divorce laws, nearly one out of every two marriages end in divorce. Two million children a year are reported missing in America. Over 5000 bodies of children are found each year. Hundreds of teenagers are committing suicide each year and thousands of children are molested or exposed to perverted acts of sexual violence. Over one and a half million babies are aborted each year. In a recent Louis Harris survey of 1000, nearly one-third of 12 to 17 year old teens have lost their virginity, and 57 percent had sex by the time they reached 17. In 30 years, births out of wedlock, as a percentage of all births, increased 450 percent.

Humanism and new age teaching have torn down the traditional absolute moral values. Their reasoning goes something like this: Is it ever right to steal? What if by stealing you could feed your starving family? Is it ever right to lie? What if by lying you were able to save your mother's life? Is it ever right to commit adultery? What if a guard of a Nazi prison camp offered you freedom to go home to your family if you agreed to satisfy his lustful desires? Many today would answer yes to the questions above based on a philosophy of situational ethics. They claim there are no absolute rights or wrongs, but each situation determines what the proper moral choice should be. In one situation adultery might be wrong, in another, it might be right. Humanistic thinkers of our day have declared the truth of the Bible to be too narrow minded and restrictive to our "modern age". Under the guise of "Values Clarification" courses taught in public schools, youth are brain washed with situational ethics. Rather than looking to the God of the Bible to discover truth; man has established himself as "god", who determines for himself what he wants truth to be. "Every man does what is right in his own eyes" (Judges 21:25).

GOD'S DESIGN OF PHYSICAL ONENESS -- When Adam had sexual relations with his wife, it is stated in the Bible that he "knew" her (Genesis 4:1). It is God's design that a man only know one woman in physical intimacy. Any woman other than a man's wife is described as a "strange woman" (Proverbs 5:3). This accounts for Paul's warning in 1 Corinthians 7:1: "Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: "It is good for a man not to touch a woman". Any physical contact that leads to romantic involvement should be reserved for the man or woman you have committed to marry.

GOD'S DESIGN OF CHILDREN -- God did not design the sexual relation purely for the recreational pleasures of the couple. The joining of the man's seed with the woman's seed was designed by God to bear fruit through the bearing of children. God clearly instructed Adam and Eve in Genesis 1:28: "And God blessed them, and God said unto them. Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth..." This command was repeated again after the flood of Noah's day and has never been repealed by God (Genesis 9:1). Modern day

vessels of gold and silver while others are vessels of wood and earth. Some are vessels of honor; some are vessels to dishonor. It is significant that in verse twenty-two he warns young people to "...flee youthful lusts". Those who defile themselves by giving in to youthful lusts will diminish their future potential effectiveness in serving the Lord. For those who keep themselves holy and separated unto the Lord there are special rewards and opportunities for service.

DAMAGE TO OUR FAMILIES -- David's sexual sin with Bathsheba was very costly (2 Samuel 11-16). Not only did the child of Bathsheba die, but God further warned of David's judgment in 2 Samuel 12:10 "Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife". There was much immorality, violence and destruction that came to David's lineage. Read the chapters given to see for yourself that sin doesn't pay.

IS VICTORY POSSIBLE

THE ROOT PROBLEM OF SEXUAL SINS -- If you sow a thought, you reap an action, if you sow an action you reap a habit, if you sow a habit you reap a lifestyle, if you sow a lifestyle you reap a destiny! Sexual sins originate in the mind. Jesus explained it this way: "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" (Matthew 5:27,28). Lust conceives in the mind of man and gives birth to the physical action (James 1:13-15). Sexual purity must be first maintained in the mind if there is any hope of prevention in the actions of life. As J. Allan Petersen has observed: "...our mind feeds the fantasy, the fantasy creates the emotions, and the emotions scream for the actual experience. This is why when one is emotionally committed to an affair, all the truth and logic in the world doesn't seem to faze him. In a contest between emotion and truth, emotion usually wins."

GOD'S SAFEGUARD AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLATIONS -- A question repeatedly asked by youth is: "how far can we go?". The better question is: "how far should we stay away from?". If there was a rattlesnake in the room with you, it would be foolish for you to see how close you could get to it and not get bitten. You would be wise to stay as far away as you could and even to exit the room if possible. "Can a man take fire in his bosom and his clothes not be burned?" (Proverbs 6:27). God warns each of us to "...make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lust" (Romans 12:14). Lustful desires burn within each of us. If we allow ourselves to get near a can of gasoline they will burn out of control. What is that can of gasoline? In 1 Corinthians 7, God gives through the apostle Paul, safeguards against committing the sin of fornication (premarital sex). Our creator's admonition to those who will accept it and live by it is: "...it is good for a man not to touch a woman". Romantic expressions of physical touch should only be expressed within the perimeter of commitment to marriage. To violate this principle is to start down the road of

270,00 cases with 179,000 dead. 4000 babies will contract the disease through the womb of the mother.

MEDICAL PROBLEMS -- God warns that those who engage in sexual sins are destroying their own bodies. "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body" (1 Corinthians 6:18). According to USA Today, April 6, 1989 HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) now ranks as one of the most common sexually transmitted diseases. About a half a million people each year contract it. Most victims are teen women and it is almost always sexually transmitted. The infection can cause changes in the cervix that signify cancer. In 95% of cases where there is cervical cancer, there is evidence of HPV. While the virus is not the cause of cervical cancer, it definitely is a contributor.

GUILT -- God's laws are written upon men's hearts and cannot be violated without producing guilt (Romans 2:14,15). Guilt is to the spirit what poison is to the body. Trying to justify and rationalize guilt away will not work because guilt is a function of our spirit. A person can read and study all the books that justify immorality, but the guilt will still remain until the conscience is cleansed by confession and repentance (Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:6-10).

ANGER AND HATRED -- In 2nd Samuel 13 we find a sordid story of how one of King David's son's had premarital relations with his stepsister and the disastrous consequences which followed. Before he forced himself on his stepsister, it is recorded that he professed feelings of love for her. But after fulfilling his lustful desires, the Bible records "Then Amnon hated her exceedingly; so that the hatred wherewith he hated her was greater than the love wherewith he had loved her. And Amnon said unto her, Arise, be gone" (2 Samuel 13:15). Many a girl has been beguiled by a fellow's promises of love and marriage. Because she believes his promises and affirmations she gives herself physically to him, only to find out that his so called affections of love and commitment were only expressions of his lust and selfishness.

BONDAGE -- Those who give in to sexual temptation are deceived by Satan. They think they are freely choosing to live as they want to without restraint. The reality is that they are increasingly becoming slaves to their own sinful passions. God warns us: Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" (Romans 6:16). The further down the road of moral degeneration you go, the closer you come to a point of reprobation described in Romans 1:24-32. Sin always takes you further than you intended to go, always keeps you longer than you intended to stay and always makes you pay more than you intended to pay! The sinner who lives for lustful pleasures goes further and further into the miry pit of iniquity (Romans 6:19).

LOSS OF OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE -- God speaks of those vessels (people) that are fit for the master's use in 2 Timothy 2:19-22. Some are

birth control devices account for much of the misuses of the sexual relationship. Birth control allows man the pleasures of sex without the responsibility God intended and the result is all forms of sexual immorality and perversion. The case of Onan illustrates God's intention that the sexual relation culminate in the fruitfulness of childbearing (Genesis 38:8,9).

GOD'S DESIGN OF MARRIAGE -- God warns in Hebrews 13:4: "Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers (fornicators) and adulterers God will judge. Sexual union was never designed by God to take place outside of the covenant of marriage. Only when two people have clearly vowed their allegiance to each other for a lifetime (Matt. 19:6) can there be the proper union of sexual relations in the sight of God. God severely warns here that any sexual activity outside of marriage He will personally judge. David Hocking has stated: "No area of disobedience so clearly defies the character and holiness of God as sexual sin. No sins listed in God's law receive more condemnation than those dealing with sexual behavior".

THE SERIOUSNESS OF SEXUAL SINS -- The moral breakdown of sensuality in our society is no light matter with God. What is justified in the sight of man is many times "an abomination in the sight of God" (Luke 16:15). In the theocracy God established with Israel the following sexual sins required the death penalty: Adultery (Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 20:10), Incest (Leviticus 18,20; Deuteronomy 27:20, 22,23), Bestiality (Leviticus 20:15,16 Deuteronomy 27:21), Homosexuality (Leviticus 18:22, 20:13), Premarital infidelity (Deuteronomy 22:13-21, 23-27). If these standards seem severe and extreme, it only proves how saturated we are with moral corruption! The sacredness of marriage and sexual activities are clearly defined in God's Word. Any premarital sexual activity required the couple to get married (Deut. 22:28-29). Please note that no mention is made of the girl conceiving! The coming together in physical oneness is the issue. Only one exception is given. The girl's father is given authority by God to forbid this marriage (Exodus 22:16,17).

WARNINGS ABOUT SEXUAL SINS -- The seventh commandment forbids all sexual intercourse except of a husband and wife: "Thou shalt not commit adultery" (Exodus 22:16; Deut. 22:28). The Bible calls the sin of premarital sex "fornication". Fornication is voluntary sexual intercourse before the commitment and covenant of marriage. "Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body. Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body" (1 Corinthians 6:13,18).. The most serious warnings have to do with a man's eternal destiny: "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers (fornicators), 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" (Revelation 21:8). "For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie" (Revelation 22:15). "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" (1 Corinthians 6:9,10). If these sins are unrepented of in a man's life, God warns he will spend eternity in hell! But God has made provision for these sins to be forgiven. "And such WERE SOME OF YOU. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Cor. 6:11). These Corinthians had found forgiveness of their sins because they had come to faith in Christ. They recognized that Christ, who is God, paid the penalty for their sin and rebellion towards God when He shed His precious blood on the cross of Calvary (Romans 3:21-30). This salvation is offered to any today who will trust the Lord Jesus Christ as savior (Acts 16:31, 4:12; Jn 1:12; Romans 10:9,10). Other passages warn of the dangers and judgment that result from the sin of fornication (Prov. 5: 3-5; Proverbs 7; Eph. 5:3; Col. 3:5; 1 Thess. 4:3; 1 Cor. 7:2; 10:8).

THE RESULTS OF SEXUAL VIOLATIONS

UNWANTED CHILDREN -- Millions of babies are conceived out of wedlock each year. Over 1.5 million unborn babies are aborted each year, over 90 percent of which are simply not wanted and are described as "inconveniences". Over 80 percent of all these abortions are performed on unmarried mothers. Of those babies that are allowed to be born, many will not have a loving father and mother or stable home environment. Many will be abused or abandoned. Many will become juvenile delinquents and trouble will be their lot in life.

FINANCIAL LOSS -- Proverbs 5:10 tells us that those involved in immorality will suffer a heavy financial loss. Many bright futures for young people have been dimmed by a moment of pleasure.

WEAK MARRIAGES -- Without the foundation of spiritual commitments a strong marriage cannot be built. "Have to marriages" have a high casualty rate. Many end in divorce and great harm is done to the children involved. Many girls have surrendered themselves physically to fellows who promised them all the joys of commitment in marriage only to find that after he satisfied his sexual drives, she was no longer desirable to him.

DIFFICULTY RECOVERING GOD'S IDEAL -- Robertson McQuilken explains the difficulty of rebuilding what sin has torn down: "Though the wages of sin is death-dealing, and the destruction of the very things grasped for has set in, it is also true that the gift of God is life. Forgiveness and grace are the great antidotes, and for the truly repentant, healing begins immediately. Yet experience cannot be undone. One can never have the first experience again. And if the first experience is morally distorted, the pristine glory God intended for that initial taste can never be experienced. If the first experience was sinful and was a happy one the problem may be even greater, for the memories are even more difficult to efface, and the shadow stretches long into the future.

'The bird with the broken wing may fly again, but never will fly so high again.' The result of sin in eternity is fully covered by the atonement, but some of the results of sin linger on in this life" God will bless a repentant spirit and promises to rebuild the years that locusts has eaten (Joel 2:25). For those who have moral scars in their past, these can be a constant reminder of warning others not to go down the same pathway. Parents who have moral failure in their past should make clear to their children the disastrous consequences that result when God's laws of purity are violated. It is especially important that parents cry out to God for wisdom in the matter of their own moral failures in the past. God warns that if we "...cover our sins we won't prosper..." (Prov. 28:13; Exodus 20:5,6; James 5:16). Children should understand that past moral failure in the lives of their parents was accompanied with certain consequences, so that the cycle of sin is not repeated (Exodus 20:5,6)!

DISEASE -- Listen to the warning in Proverbs 5:3-12: "For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: {4} But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. {5} Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell. {6} Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are movable, that thou canst not know them. {7} Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth. {8} Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house: {9} Lest thou give thine honor unto others, and thy years unto the cruel: {10} Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labors be in the house of a stranger; {11} And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed, {12} And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof". Venereal diseases have become rampant in America because of sexual immorality. Many think doctors will be able to cure most of these diseases, but listen to the following report by doctors: "In the mid-1930's, doctors successfully treated gonorrhea with sulfa drugs. However, that did not last long. By the 1940's, most strains of gonorrhea had developed a resistance to sulfa. Thus, so much sulfa was required to treat the resistant infections that it was harmful to the rest of the patient's body. During the 1940's, doctors discovered a new 'miracle drug' called penicillin. Penicillin destroyed gonorrhea and promised to free mankind from consequences of adulterous lust. However, each new generation of venereal disease gradually gained resistance to man's miracle cure. The amount of penicillin required to treat infections of gonorrhea continued to multiply. At one time the prescribed dose of penicillin was 100 units. That quickly grew to more than 1,000 units. Today gonorrhea treatment requires a massive dose of 4.8 million units, and some strains can't be destroyed with even this vast amount" Every new drug follows the same pattern. It is only a matter of time before it loses its power to cure. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting" (Galatians 6:7,8). According to the Center For Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia; the number of AIDS cases in the United States passed 200,000 in January 1990. They estimate that 1.5 million Americans are infected with the virus, but as yet show no serious symptoms. By 1991 they estimate