

**A Biblical Study of Sex Before Marriage**  
**Kurt Trucksess – April 19, 2004**

**for•ni•ca•tion** - consensual sexual intercourse between two persons not married to each other <sup>1</sup>

“For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.<sup>2</sup> Matthew 15:19 (Greek word – porneia)

“For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries,<sup>3</sup> Mark 7:21 (Greek word – porneia)

but that we write to them that they abstain from things contaminated by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood.<sup>4</sup> Acts 15:20 (Greek word – porneia)

that you abstain from things sacrificed to idols and from blood and from things strangled and from fornication; if you keep yourselves free from such things, you will do well. Farewell.”<sup>5</sup> Acts 15:29 (Greek word – porneia)

“But concerning the Gentiles who have believed, we wrote, having decided that they should abstain from meat sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what is strangled and from fornication.”<sup>6</sup> Acts 21:25 (Greek word – porneia)

Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy.<sup>7</sup> Romans 13:13 (Greek word – koite)

I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people;<sup>8</sup> 1 Cor 5:9 (Greek word – pornos)

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.<sup>9</sup> 1 Cor 6:9 (Greek word – pornos)

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<sup>1</sup>Inc Merriam-Webster, *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, Includes Index., Eleventh ed. (Springfield, Mass.: Merriam-Webster, Inc., 2003).

<sup>2</sup>*New American Standard Bible : 1995 Update*, Mt 15:19. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995.

<sup>3</sup>*New American Standard Bible : 1995 Update*, Mk 7:21. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995.

<sup>4</sup>*New American Standard Bible : 1995 Update*, Ac 15:20. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995.

<sup>5</sup>*New American Standard Bible : 1995 Update*, Ac 15:29. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995.

<sup>6</sup>*New American Standard Bible : 1995 Update*, Ac 21:25. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995.

<sup>7</sup>*New American Standard Bible : 1995 Update*, Ro 13:13. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995.

<sup>8</sup>*New American Standard Bible : 1995 Update*, 1 Co 5:9. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995.

<sup>9</sup>*New American Standard Bible : 1995 Update*, 1 Co 6:9. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995.

Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, but God will do away with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body.<sup>10</sup> 1 Cor 6:13 (Greek word – porneia)

Flee immorality. Every *other* sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.<sup>11</sup> 1 Cor 6:18 (Greek word – porneia)

Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day.<sup>12</sup> 1 Cor 10:8 (Greek word – porneuo – meaning the action of porneia)

Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,<sup>13</sup> Gal 5:19 (Greek word – immorality = porneia, impurity = akatharsia, sensuality = aselgia)

But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints;<sup>14</sup> Eph 5:3 (Greek word – immorality = porneia )

Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.<sup>15</sup> Col 3:5 (Greek word – immorality = porneia, passion = pathos)

For this is the will of God, your sanctification; *that is*, that you abstain from sexual immorality;<sup>16</sup> 1 Thes. 4:3 (Greek Word – porneia)

Marriage *is to be held* in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.<sup>17</sup> Heb 13:4 (Greek word – fornicators = porvia, marriage bed defiled = koite)

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### Definitions of Greek Words

Pornos - **πόρνος, ου**, □ in the NT a man who has sexual intercourse with a prostitute fornicator, *sexually immoral person* (1C 5.9); distinguished from μοιχός (*adulterer*) in 1C 6.9 and □ρσενοκοίτης (*sodomite* or *homosexual*) in 1T 1.10<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>10</sup>New American Standard Bible : 1995 Update, 1 Co 6:13. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995.

<sup>11</sup>New American Standard Bible : 1995 Update, 1 Co 6:18. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995.

<sup>12</sup>New American Standard Bible : 1995 Update, 1 Co 10:8. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995.

<sup>13</sup>New American Standard Bible : 1995 Update, Ga 5:19. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995.

<sup>14</sup>New American Standard Bible : 1995 Update, Eph 5:3. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995.

<sup>15</sup>New American Standard Bible : 1995 Update, Col 3:5. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995.

<sup>16</sup>New American Standard Bible : 1995 Update, 1 Th 4:3. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995.

<sup>17</sup>New American Standard Bible : 1995 Update, Heb 13:4. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995.

<sup>18</sup>Friberg, Timothy, Barbara Friberg, and Neva F. Miller. Vol. 4, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*. Baker's Greek New Testament library, Page 324. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2000.

Porneia - **πορνεία, ας**, □ (1) generally, of every kind of extramarital, unlawful, or unnatural sexual intercourse *fornication, sexual immorality, prostitution* (1C 5.1); (2) when distinguished from adultery (μοιχεία) in the same context *extramarital intercourse, sexual immorality, fornication* (MT 15.19); (3) as a synonym for μοιχεία (*marital*) *unfaithfulness, adultery* (MT 5.32); (4) metaphorically, as apostasy from God through idolatry (*spiritual*) *immorality, unfaithfulness* (RV 19.2)<sup>19</sup>

*Pornei in Paul, Hebrews, and James.* Paul shows that *porneia* has no part in God's kingdom. The *pórnos* is excluded (1 Cor. 6:9; Eph. 5:5). Idolatry and licentiousness are linked together in 1 Cor. 6:9. The desert generation offers a warning (1 Cor. 10:8, 11). Unnatural sex in the pagan world is an outworking of divine judgment (Rom. 1:18ff.). The church must keep itself pure from such vices (1 Cor. 5:1ff.). Individual *porneía* pollutes the whole church (2 Cor. 12:19ff.). God's will for his people is sanctification (1 Th. 4:3ff.). The Christian is a temple of the Spirit and may not give to a harlot members that belong to Christ (1 Cor. 6:15-16). To do so is to shame both self and the church. Licentiousness is a work of the *sárx*, and is earthly; the Spirit opposes it, and believers are to seek what is above (Gal. 5:19ff.; Col. 3:1ff.). Marriage is a protection against it (1 Cor. 7:2). Serious though fornication is, there is forgiveness for it (1 Cor. 6:11). Thus Rahab is justified by a faith (Heb. 11:31) that shows itself in works (Jms. 2:25).<sup>20</sup>

Koite - **κοίτη, ης**, □ (1) generally *bed* (LU 11.7); specifically *marriage bed* (HE 13.4); (2) euphemistically sexual intercourse; plural *sexual excesses, promiscuity, illicit affairs* (RO 13.13); (3) idiomatically κοίτην □χειν literally *have bed, i.e. conceive, become pregnant* (RO 9.10)<sup>21</sup>

Akatharsia - □ **καθαροσία** moral uncleanness, impurity (1TH 2.3), opposite □γιασμός (*holy living*); of sexual vice immorality,<sup>22</sup>

Aselgia – □ **σέλγεια, ας**, □ as living without any moral restraint licentiousness, sensuality, lustful indulgence (2C 12.21)<sup>23</sup>

<sup>19</sup>Friberg, Timothy, Barbara Friberg, and Neva F. Miller. Vol. 4, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*. Baker's Greek New Testament library, Page 323. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2000.

<sup>20</sup>Kittel, Gerhard, Gerhard Friedrich, and Geoffrey William Bromiley. *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*. Translation of: Theologisches Wörterbuch zum Neuen Testament., Page 920. Grand Rapids, Mich.: W.B. Eerdmans, 1995, c1985.

<sup>21</sup>Friberg, Timothy, Barbara Friberg, and Neva F. Miller. Vol. 4, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*. Baker's Greek New Testament library, Page 233. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2000.

<sup>22</sup>Friberg, Timothy, Barbara Friberg, and Neva F. Miller. Vol. 4, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*. Baker's Greek New Testament library, Page 39. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2000.

<sup>23</sup>Friberg, Timothy, Barbara Friberg, and Neva F. Miller. Vol. 4, *Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament*. Baker's Greek New Testament library, Page 77. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2000.

Pathos - πάθος (*pathos*), ους (*ous*), τό (*to*): n.neu.; ≡ Str 3806; TDNT 5.926—LN 25.30  
sexual passion, lust (Ro 1:26; Col 3:5; 1Th 4:5+)<sup>24</sup>

## How Far Is TOO Far?

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**Defraud** – to cheat, to deprive by deception or fraud

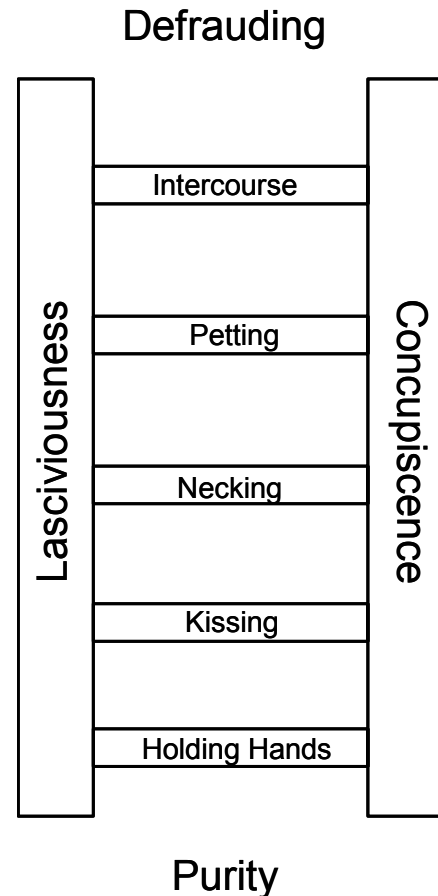
**Lasciviousness** – Acting lewdly or lustfully... provoking another's sexual desires  
(You will find it in the King James Version of the Bible in Mark 7:22, 2 Cor. 12:21;  
Gal 5:19; Eph 4:19; 1 Peter 4:3; Jude 4)

**Concupiscence** – Being controlled by your sexual desires (You will find it in the  
King James Version of the Bible in Romans 7:8; Col. 3:5; 1 Thess. 4:5)

A relationship begins at a state of sexual purity. The more physically involved you become outside of marriage, the more you begin to steal (defraud) from your partner intimacies that have been intended by God to be reserved for each of your marriage partners alone.

The farther up the sexual ladder you climb, the more lasciviously you will use your body. The more your body will be used to provoke your partner's sexual desires. The result is that they become more attracted to the passion than the person. Their true feeling and emotions for you become increasingly clouded. They are more in love with the feeling of passion than they are the person.

The farther up the ladder you climb, not only are you increasingly using your body to provoke your partner's sexual desires but you are also becoming increasingly controlled by your own sexual desires. This is called concupiscence. The higher up the ladder you go the more controlled by your sexual appetite you will become. In a manner that is similar to bringing two magnets closer together, the closer you go to the top of the ladder the stronger the pull of attraction will become.



So where is the answer? How far is too far? How far up the ladder can you climb without inciting the sexual passions of your partner? You are a person, not

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<sup>24</sup>Swanson, James. *Dictionary of Biblical Languages With Semantic Domains : Greek (New Testament)*. electronic ed., GGK4079. Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997.

a sexual object. How far up the ladder can you climb without finding your mind being preoccupied with your partners sexuality both in the heat of the moment and out of the heat of the moment?

Needless to say, none of us can climb too high and maintain our purity.

Paul put it well in his challenge to young Timothy. When he was instructing him on his relationships with women in his congregation...

*Treat younger men like brothers, older women like mothers, younger women like sisters, in all purity. 1 Timothy 5:2*

Simply put, if you wouldn't do it with your sister, then you shouldn't be doing it with your partner outside of the marriage covenant.

For those who haven't quite figured it out, the plain instructions are...

- Don't Pull Up
- Don't Pull Down
- Don't Unbutton
- Don't Unzip
- Keep Your Hands to Yourself