

The Lowdown on Fornication
1 Thessalonians 4:1-9
The Foundations of our Faith, part 14

- Challenging people to sexual purity, then and now is a hard sell. It is not something the natural man never accepts, but will actually fight against.
- Sexual sin, once practiced easily becomes an obsession & addiction and the person practicing fornication will begin to think they can't "help it" or they were born "that way."
- Paul clearly writes that they were to abstain from fornication, v.3.
- **Fornication is a general word, relating to any kind of sexual activity outside of heterosexual marriage:** pre-marital sex, adultery, incest, bestiality, prostitution, to homosexual sexual activity, or any other kind of sexual practices outside of the marriage relationship of one man and one woman.

1. Positive Reasons for Abstaining from Fornication v.3-4

- Abstaining from fornication is central to:
 - A. Pleasing God, v.1
 - B. Obeying God, v.2:
 - C. Doing God's Will, v.3
 - D. Honoring my Body, v.4

2. Negative Reasons for Abstaining from Fornication, v.5

- Proverbs 6:24-35 tells us nine reasons to run from lust:
 - A. Evil:** You will participate in evil, v.24.
 - B. Poverty:** Adultery leads to loss, v.26
 - C. Burned:** You cannot get away with it, v.27-29
 - D. Hated,** v.30-31,35
 - E. Foolishness:** You'll lack wisdom, v.32a
 - F. Destruction:** You'll destroy yourself, v.32b
 - G. Wounds:** You'll create your own wounds, v.33; Proverbs 5:11.
 - H. Shame** and disgrace, v.33
 - I. Revenge:** You'll lose every time, v.34

3. The Lowdown of Fornication, v.6

- A. You are Overstepping your Boundaries
- B. You are Committing Spiritual Fraud

- Defraud: Fraud is wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in financial or personal gain. This word means to take advantage of someone or exploiting another person for your personal pleasure.

C. You will Experience God's Revenge

(Hebrews 13:4; Ephesians 5:5-6; Colossians 3:5,6; Proverbs 5:23; Proverbs 6:32, 33; Proverbs 7:27).

4. Our Victory Over Fornication, v.7-8

- How do we live in victory over this sin? How can we overcome its powerful influence on our flesh? Remember three things:

A. Remember What you are Denying: Your Calling

- **Four practical suggestions:**

1.) Sing songs out loud in praise to God.

2.) Fill your mind and your mouth with God's Word: Speak, and memorize Scripture out loud.

3.) Write an "IDENTIFICATION letter:" Who is Christ to you? What has He done for you? And who are you now in Christ?

4.) Write a "CONSEQUENCE letter:" That is, if you sin, what will be the consequences in your walk with God? What shame, dishonor and guilt will be yours? What consequences will this have in your family, with your spouse or children?

B. Remember Who you are Rejecting: God.

C. Remember Who you are Quenching: The Holy Spirit.