

SEXUAL PURITY

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PREFACE

The purpose of this book is to help every believer, particularly Christian youth, to understand lust, abhor and overcome sexual sins, and have the passion to maintain purity in this generation.

In this book, we share:

- Our personal journeys with sexual purity;
- Tips for meeting God's standard for holiness and sexual purity for disciples and disciplemakers;
- Biblical counsel for setting sexual captives free for abundant life in Christ

This book will therefore answer the following critical questions:

- Does God care whether I am male or female?
- What is sexual lust, and why is it dangerous to the Christian?
- Can a Christian overcome lust? How?
- Is sexual purity possible in this 21st century? How?

- What is the problem with pornography? Impure thoughts? Masturbation? How do I get over them?
- How do I distinguish between genuine relationships, infatuations, and fakes?
- What sexual sins are there, and what are the dangers of casual and pre-marital sex?
- Are same-sex attractions and relationships wrong or normal? How should I handle my sexual orientation?

By the end of this book, you should have some golden nuggets on how to maintain your sexual purity, whether you are a single man or woman, or a married man or woman.

God bless you as you read,

JFK & Georgina Mensah

Accra.

CHAPTER TWO

Is Sexual Purity For Today?

Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. **2 Tim. 2:22**

I appreciate the Lord Jesus because he can save anybody. One of my greatest challenges as a human being was sexual promiscuity. As I shared in the previous chapter, I started very young and by age 10, I had slept with one of my own half-sisters (that's what we call incest). By age 12, two of my other brothers and I had slept with the same girl on the same day. When I got to the secondary school, a friend taught me how to masturbate, and I started masturbating from secondary school Form 3 all the way to the Sixth Form.

I'm sharing this with you to show how Jesus picked me up and came into my heart when I accepted Him as my Lord and personal Saviour. I became what we commonly call born again, and a change came over me. A "born-

again" is someone who has had a life-changing encounter with Jesus. That week in 1973, the masturbation left me, never to come back. This is the 47th year since I gave my life to Jesus, and I have never masturbated again. If this is not Jesus, tell me who did it?

I qualify to talk about sexual impurity and how to stay sexually pure as a Christian because I was engaged to Georgina, my wife, for close to four and a half years when we were in the University of Ghana, Legon. I never kissed her, I never fondled her ... nothing of the sort. I vowed to God that if He would keep me sexually pure until my wedding day, I would have a three-day fast during my honeymoon as thanksgiving. And that is exactly what God did and what I also did.

I have been pastoring now for 42 years and my office was on the University of Ghana, Legon Campus for well into 20 years. I have seen every kind of girl and every kind of seductive dressing, and I'm here to report that God is my witness, there is no rumour anywhere of my ever compromising my stand or my behaviour on being involved in a questionable way with any lady.

I am a witness that Jesus changes lives. I can authoritatively say that the grace of God can keep you sexually pure. This book is an attempt to discuss honestly what it takes to co-operate with God on this journey of cleaning up your life and maintaining sexual purity.

What Is Sexual Purity?

We begin our journey by trying to define sexual purity and sexual impurity. We then discuss some of the myths about sexual purity today, and end this chapter with the importance of sexual purity especially for a believer.

So what do we mean by sexual purity? Sexual purity is *the personal choice and determination to keep your spirit and conscience, your heart, your mind, your imaginations, your emotions, your attitudes, your utterances, your actions, and your general behavior as pure as that of Jesus Christ.* That is the meaning of sexual purity.

Let us come again from the viewpoint of the scripture.

Do not be hasty in the laying on of hands, and do not share in the sins of others. Keep yourself pure.

1 Tim. 5:22

“Keep yourself pure.” This applies to even married people.

Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. Heb. 13:4

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. 1 Jn. 3:2,3

*Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God. **2 Cor. 7:1***

In Matthew 5:27,28, Jesus raises the bar for the Christian by saying that the Old Testament command against adultery actually applies in our thought-life --

*“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. **Matt. 5:27,28***

Then in Mark 7:21-23, Jesus lists the sins that make us dirty before God --

For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person.

What do all these verses tell us? Firstly, we can know that the Bible is clear that sexual purity is possible. In fact, it is commanded. It is possible to be as pure as Jesus is pure. Again, the Bible lays the responsibility for keeping oneself pure on the shoulders of the individual Christ-follower. We are to cleanse *ourselves*, purify *ourselves*, and keep *ourselves* pure. Thirdly, Jesus identifies sexual sins as making us dirty before God, and defiling us even as far as the heart.

What Is Sexual Impurity?

Now, it is also important to know what the Bible considers to be sexual impurity or sexual immorality. Let's start from the Old Testament, and pay attention to the list in Leviticus 18:4-24 --

You shall observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them: I am the LORD your God. You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which if a man does, he shall live by them: I am the LORD.

None of you shall approach anyone who is near of kin to him, to uncover his nakedness: I am the LORD. The nakedness of your father or the nakedness of your mother you shall not uncover. She is your mother; you shall not uncover her nakedness. The nakedness of your father's wife you shall not uncover; it is your father's nakedness. The nakedness of your sister, the daughter of your father, or the daughter of your mother, whether born at home or elsewhere, their nakedness you shall not uncover.

The nakedness of your son's daughter or your daughter's daughter, their nakedness you shall not uncover; for theirs is your own nakedness. The nakedness of your father's wife's daughter, begotten by your father - she is your sister - you shall not uncover her nakedness. You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's sister; she is near of kin to your father. You shall not uncover the nakedness of your mother's sister, for she is near of kin to your mother. You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's brother. You shall not approach his wife; she is your aunt. You shall not uncover the nakedness of

your daughter-in-law - she is your son's wife - you shall not uncover her nakedness. You shall not uncover the nakedness of your brother's wife; it is your brother's nakedness.

You shall not uncover the nakedness of a woman and her daughter, nor shall you take her son's daughter or her daughter's daughter, to uncover her nakedness. They are near of kin to her. It is wickedness. Nor shall you take a woman as a rival to her sister, to uncover her nakedness while the other is alive. Also you shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness as long as she is in her customary impurity. Moreover you shall not lie carnally with your neighbor's wife, to defile yourself with her.

And you shall not let any of your descendants pass through the fire to Molech, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the LORD. You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination. Nor shall you mate with any animal, to defile yourself with it. Nor shall any woman stand before an animal to mate with it. It is perversion. Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out before you.

Leviticus 18:4-24 NKJV

This passage is important for Christians because in our days, even though some countries in the world have criminalized incest, bestiality and same-sex marriages, 22 countries have legalized incest¹, allowing you to freely have sex with any family member. Some have even legalized sexual relations with animals,² and yet others

¹ <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/countries-where-incest-is-legal>

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legality_of_bestiality_by_country_or_territory

have legalized same-sex marriages³.

It is easy therefore to take the times in which we live as an indicator of God's perspective on issues: "the voice of the people is the voice of God," they erroneously claim. A thousand times "NO!"

We serve an unchanging God in a fast-changing world. The culture of any country can change, and the laws of the nation can change, but the words of God are unchangeable because God Himself is unchangeable. Theologians call Him immutable. That means that God cannot change for the better (or else He was not God at first); neither can He change for the worse (because that means He is no longer God). He cannot change within Himself, and He cannot be threatened or coerced from outside to change, because that would mean He does not control all the power in the world.

*I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. **Mal. 3:6***

God is not human, that he should lie; not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?

Num. 23:19

*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. **Heb. 13:8***

³ <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/countries-where-gay-marriage-is-legal>

In Hebrews 9:14, we are told that the Holy Spirit is the eternal Spirit. We meet the Holy Spirit in the first chapter of the Bible (Genesis 1:2); and we meet Him in the last chapter of the last book of the Bible (Revelation 22:17). God does not change; His attributes do not change; His moral standards do not change; His character does not change; His promises do not change. Jesus Christ is the same -- unchangeable, and so is the Holy Spirit.

No Christ-follower should get the funny idea that because everybody seems to be doing something and your country has legislated something that is contrary to what the Bible says, there is now nothing wrong with it, and therefore God is forced to accept the terms which we give Him. The godhood of God makes it such that all human dealings with him remain at the stage where He Himself determines what should be done. He is an eternal character, and His moral standards do not change for the sake of any generation.

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. He brings the princes to nothing; He makes the judges of the earth useless.

Isa. 40:21-23

Myths About Sexual Purity

In this section, we want to attack some of the common myths about sexual purity and its importance.

You are not vulnerable or targeted for sexual immorality.

This false idea makes you think that you are above sexual impurity. It therefore prevents you from preparing and adopting strategies for fighting lust, until you are bombarded with some carefully-crafted attack of Satan that floors you. None of us is immune to this temptation. Even the Lord Jesus was tempted in every way like us (Heb. 2:17; 4:15). It is a dangerous lie of the devil to catch you unprepared.

It is impossible to abstain from sex.

This lie insists that Bible standards for sexual purity are too high even for pastors, much less the average Christian. "Nobody can obey God's requirements for sexual purity." This is another lethal poison the devil throws at us. God will never let us be tempted beyond our strength; neither will He give us commandments we cannot keep (1 Cor. 10:13; 1 Jn. 5:3). Others are keeping themselves pure (Rev. 14:1-5), and they are "men of like passion as us".

Moreover, it is Christ who purifies us by grace, and we should always keep this in mind (Phil. 3:7-10).

If you keep yourself sexually pure, you necessarily save yourself for a good marriage.

Even though it is true that sexual purity safeguards your marriage, it is not automatic that every Christian who keeps themselves will end up being married or with a happy marriage. It is not really a contract that God is forced to keep. He has His plans for every child of His. Just obey Him. Even if it is not His plan for you to marry, His will is the best for you.

Once you lose your sexual purity, it is lost forever and you can never get it back.

This is not true. When you become a faithful Christ-follower, Jesus washes your sins and your conscience with his blood (Heb. 9:14,22). If you have failed in the area of sexual purity, you can repent, confess, and stage a comeback. There is no condemnation in Christ if you walk according to the Spirit (Rom. 8:1,4).

Single Christians are not (supposed to be) sexual.

This is a myth. Sexual instincts are purely biological and natural needs. They assail all humans just as hunger for food and thirst for water assail us. You are not less spiritual because you face sexual temptation as a single person. Moreover, singlehood exposes you to many temptations. When adventurous and lustful people find that you are single, they make attempts that they would not ordinarily make on a married person, thereby increasing the chances

of your sexuality being riled up.

Sexual purity is only a problem for singles.

Don't believe this. Some people rush into marrying the wrong person because they think that will prevent sexual lust. Marriage does not do away with the temptations of sexual lust. If anything, it even increases them because of the partner you always have at your side for satisfaction. After marriage, you still need to guard your heart with all diligence from lust. Remember that David was married before he fell into the Bathsheba scandal.

You only become sexually impure when you are involved in actual sex.

Wrong. Jesus explained that when you look at a woman to lust after her, you have already committed adultery with her in your heart (Matt. 5:28). Your thoughts can be sexually impure from watching pornography. Your conscience can be sexually defiled as well (Tit. 1:15). Any sexual activity that occurs with anyone except your legally (spiritually) married spouse leads to sexual impurity.

If you lost your sexual purity before being born again, your sex life in marriage is forever ruined.

This also is false. Jesus cleanses you and gives you a new heart and a new spirit (Ezek. 36:25-27). You become a new creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). You can still be a virgin in Christ and enjoy your marital life.

Virgins make the best marriage partners.

Even though this is desirable and ought to be the norm, it is not strictly true. The Christian life and marriage life demand a multi-faceted tapestry of character traits. The virgin may not be mature in other areas of the Christian life, and that can create a new set of problems in the marriage.

Those who save themselves for marriage make perfect partners.

Again, just as the argument above, the other areas of spiritual growth also affect the day-to-day running of the home and marriage life. Saving yourself for a Christian marriage alone is not enough. You have to work on other areas of your character, such as the fruit of the Spirit, and so on.

Sexual purity is about whether or not you have sex.

No, please. Fondling, necking, kissing, romantic embraces, and watching pornography or blue films, as well as lusting after the opposite sex/same sex all defile us sexually before God.

Your temptations define you.

This is a lie. Temptation is not sin (Heb. 4:15). You can come out of sexual temptations by refusing to yield your heart to them (Jas. 1:13-15). You can resist the devil and he will flee from you (Jas. 4:7). Refuse to consider yourself a hopeless case (1 Cor. 10:13).

You can control yourself and your convictions after your feelings cross the line.

This is a myth. Once your feelings for sex have been aroused beyond a certain point, it is impossible to control yourself anymore. You end up committing the actual act, or resorting to deliberate masturbation. It is always best not to go beyond the limits of purity and propriety.

God's call to holiness will be 'fair' (considerate of some circumstances).

God's standard for holiness is the same for all human beings in all ages at all places. Never think that God understands your particular case, or gives you some kind of special license because you are so close to Him. You will be shocked on Judgment Day: His requirements never change.

The Importance of Sexual Purity

Allow us to end this chapter by outlining the importance of sexual purity. Today's society is sin-sick and sex-soaked. Sexual temptation is more available than ever. However, sexual purity is a great choice because of the following reasons:

- 1. God calls us to sexual purity** (1 Thess. 4:3-5). Biblical standards for morality are timeless, universal and unchangeable. We must maintain God's standard for marriage because He knows best (Gen. 2:24).

- 2. We are temples of the living God and the Spirit of God.** God does not live in temples made with human hands (Acts 7:48-50; 17:24). He dwells within us (2 Cor. 6:16). We live and move in Him. Moreover, by the purchase with His blood, we have become members of Christ's body (1 Cor. 6:15,16). Every sexual infraction we commit with our body means that we have taken a member of Christ and joined it with a prostitute to become one flesh. This is horrible. Above all, our body is the temple and dwelling place of God's Spirit (1 Cor. 6:18-20; 3:16-17).
- 3. Purity, and sexual purity in particular, allow you access to God's presence** (Matt. 5:8; Rev. 14:1-5).
- 4. Maintaining your sexual purity in the midst of your peers makes you an enviable example in this 21st century.** Even if they persecute you and say all manner of evil against you, they know in their hearts that it is an uncommon feat to stay clean from sex.
- 5. Sexual purity affects every other area of your life: your speech, dress, thoughts, relationships, attitudes, and choices.** You relate with others with a new confidence because you are not under the guilt and condemnation of a conscience loaded with masturbation, impure thoughts, pornography, and lust.
- 6. You always gain when you obey God.** The foolishness of God is wiser than men. Your self-worth and self-

esteem increases when you are sexually pure with a clear conscience before God and man.

7. Sexual purity prevents adultery within marriage because you would have learned to control your passions.

Sex binds the love and trust of a couple. The spiritual, emotional, and marriage-covenanting dimension of sex can now be seen to glorify God and unite couples.

8. Your spouse trusts you more, and there is greater marital bliss and family peace.

9. Sexual purity results in clean marriages and godly procreation as humans co-operate with God in bringing man in God's image into the world (Gen. 5:1-4).

Even though pre-marital and extra-marital unions also produce children, they are more likely to be unwanted children born out of wedlock who may carry rejection all their lives, along with the long-lasting consequences of sin.

10. You are not the only Christian. Others are meeting the standard and living sexually pure lives. We read their stories in the Old Testament, and we will meet a whole host of them according to Rev. 14:1-5.

We can now move on to the next chapter, which follows on from this.

CHAPTER THREE

Sexual Sins and Their Danger

It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable **1 Thess. 4:3,4**

From the truths we have learned in the previous chapter, we want to spend this chapter presenting a non-exhaustive list of sexual sins from the perspective of the Bible and in the Christian sense. Then we tackle some of the critical and contemporary issues pertaining to sexual purity, including why premarital sex is always wrong.

Listing And Explaining Sexual Sins

Be patient with us as we go through the list of some of the common sexual sins according to the Bible and general Christian standards. Note that this is not an exhaustive list; you may be involved in something impure that is not listed here. The Holy Spirit (Jn. 16:8) and your conscience will convict you.

1. **Fornication** is from a New Testament Greek word *porneia* from which we get the English word “pornography”. It means to sell yourself cheaply for sex. It typically refers to sex outside a marriage relationship; it is unlawful sex.
2. **Adultery** is sexual involvement with somebody when one of the parties is already married.
3. **Incest** is sexual relations with somebody who is a close family member, like a parent, sibling, or cousin.
4. **Rape** is forcing somebody to have sexual relations with you, where the use of brute force is involved and the sexual act is against the free will/volition of the other party.
5. **Masturbation** is having sexual relations with yourself.
6. **Homosexuality** is sexual relations between men.
7. **Lesbianism** is sexual relations between women.
8. **Bestiality** is sexual relations with an animal.
9. **Phone sex (including sexting)** is using the medium of technology for sexual relations with someone else, whether by exchanging nude pictures, through a phone call, texting, or video calling, etc. It is an interaction on the phone between two or more people which is sexually explicit and intended to provoke and arouse the other party sexually.

10. Voyeurism involves intruding on someone's privacy in order to gain sexual pleasure. Voyeurs observe people who are undressing, naked, or involved in sexual activity, with/without that person's knowledge or consent. Voyeurs may observe in person from a distance, or might use cameras or video equipment to secretly photograph or videotape the object of their fetish. They get sexual satisfaction from peeping on others in sexual acts.

11. Wife switching/wife swapping is the temporary exchange of wives between married couples for sexual relations. Sometimes, it is when groups of couples agree to switch or swap wives and sleep with each other.

12. Pornography is reading sexually explicit books, or watching sexually loaded videos, movies and media/material that stir you up lustfully.

13. Impure thoughts can lead to or be inspired by a wide range of other sexual sins, but they are thoughts having to do with some kind of sexual activity. It may involve meditation on a sexually-stimulating scene you have watched, read, or conjured up in your own mind. Sometimes, it is reliving sexual scenes from your own experience, or imagining what people around you might look like naked or how they might be involved in sexual activity with you/others. Some men are experts at "stripping women naked" in their minds.

- 14. Prostitution** is the practice or occupation of engaging in sexual activities with someone for payment. It can be either homosexual or heterosexual.
- 15. Anal sex** is sexual activity involving the anus (“backdoor”) of another person.
- 16. Oral sex** is sexual activity with the mouth of another person
- 17. Dry sex or dry humping** is sexual activity that doesn’t involve direct contact between genitals. It can involve various sexual behaviors, including (but not limited to) rubbing or touching a partner through their clothing. In this line, anything that you do or is done to you to “turn you on” sexually is a sin.
- 18. Sex masochism** involves individuals who are sexually aroused when they are humiliated, beaten, bound, or otherwise made to suffer, or they do such to their sexual partner.
- 19. Sexual activities with demons.** Spiritual marriage is having sexual relations with spirit beings; typically, at night, spirits come and have sexual interactions with you, whether willingly/unwillingly or consciously/unconsciously. They defile you sexually and spiritually.
- 20. Sexual Lust/Inordinate affection** is lusting in an improper way after somebody you are not married to. It also involves flirting with somebody though you are married. It may begin as a crush/infatuation.

21. Paedophilia is sexual attraction and/or relations with a minor.

22. Polygamy is the practice of marrying multiple spouses, or being sexually involved with more than one partner. It is polyandry when a woman has multiple male sexual partners.

You can see where the list is going and that is not exhaustive. You can also see that some of these are both sexual crimes against legal systems and sexual sins against God (eg. rape). However, some of these are sins but not crimes. Moreover, the LGBTQ2+ movement means that the list of such sexual sins keeps expanding.

At this juncture, let us spend a few breaths on two particular issues.

Spiritual Sexual Defilement

Your spirit can be involved in sexual immorality. 2 Cor. 7:1 warns us to cleanse ourselves from every defilement of spirit. How does your spirit get defiled?

This often happens as a manifestation of spiritual marriage. In such cases, you dream and see yourself having sex either with a man or woman; in many males, they have wet dreams because they have been sexually aroused while sleeping. We have even had a case where a lady confessed that she would be wide awake, but suddenly have the sensation that someone is having sex with her. All

these defile your spirit.

We call it a spiritual marriage because it is an indication that you have done something or are carrying a family curse which has become a contract between your spirit and another evil spirit. Just as in the physical, no man can just walk into a woman's bedroom and sleep with her, so also, no spirit can have access to sexually defile you unless there is a prior relationship or contract -- whether known or unknown. Such spirits consider you their husband/wife, and engage you in sexual immorality in your inner man.

Some indications of a spiritual marriage which needs to be broken by godly deliverance ministers are:

- lack of interest in marriage
- repeated and inexplicable breaking up of all your relationships
- even if you are married, you are not interested in sex with your spouse
- even if you are married, you are not able to have children

Spiritual marriage often leads to divorce because the spirit you are married to fights against your legal spouse. This is why it should not be toyed with.

Sexual Immorality in Marriage

Another necessary discussion is the issue of sexual immorality in marriage. The fact that you are married does

not mean you can do whatever you like with sex. We have already given the example of Onan in Genesis 38. Here are some of the ways in which even married couples can sin sexually:

a) Wrongly denying sex to your partner (1 Cor. 7:4,5); this is counted as defrauding them.

b) Cheating on your partner, whether physically or emotionally. Emotional affairs denote inordinate affection for someone other than your spouse. In this case, you are married but your affections are for another person.

c) Raping your wife

d) Sleeping with your wife when she is in her menses

e) Wrong postures of sex, e.g. anal and oral sex. The male and female organs have a purpose and direction; their shape determines how they should be used, not abused. The key here is not so much about do's and don'ts as much as respecting the presence of God even in your bedroom.

Therefore, you can be married but sinning sexually.

Why Is Sexual Sin So Dangerous?

It can often seem like preachers overemphasize sexual sin, as if it is the only sin mentioned in the Bible. What makes sexual sin so particularly dangerous and defiling before a holy God? 1 Cor. 6:13-20 provides us with six reasons we cannot ignore:

1. Our body belongs to the Lord, not to sex, and not even to food.

2. Our bodies are members of Christ's body. When you unite with a prostitute or someone who is not your legal spouse, you are uniting Christ's body with a prostitute. How do you think Christ feels? You are doing with His body what is an abomination.

3. When you unite with Christ, you become one spirit with Him (1 Cor. 6:17); v18 then commands us to flee fornication. Every other sin is outside the body, but the sexual sinner sins against his own body which is a member of Christ.

4. Our body is the temple, the bedroom, of the Holy Spirit. It's like defecating on the pillow of the president. When you sin sexually, you defile the place, and all of Heaven is scandalized.

5. You have been bought with a price. Your body cost God; He bought you with the blood of Jesus. You are not your own. You can't do what you like with your body.

6. Our body should be presented as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God (Rom. 12:1). In fact, it is a worship sacrifice to God. Sexual immorality makes the whole heaven incensed against you for the abomination. In 1 Thess. 4:7, we are called to holiness to avoid sexual immorality.

Let us go through three more passages to cement our point.

*Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. **1 Cor. 6:9-11***

Notice that in the list, the apostle Paul differentiates between the different shades of sexual immorality. He mentions fornicators separately from adulterers and homosexuals (Gk. *arsenokoites* — *arsen*, meaning male (man); *koite* meaning bed; men who go to bed with men).

Another passage is Romans 1:24,26,28 --

*Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another... Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones... Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. **Rom. 1:24,26,28***

Three times in that passage, Paul repeats that “God gave them over”. People are involved in sexual impurities and sexual immorality because they do not want to retain God

in their mind; therefore God hands them over completely to their lusts. In effect, He says, “Okay, if this is what you want to do, then go ahead and do it to the full.”

The last passage to keep in mind on this score is Galatians 5:19-21, in which the Scripture is clear and again brings up shades of sexual immorality.

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. Gal. 5:19-21 NKJV

Do you see that Paul mentions adultery, then fornication, then uncleanness? He has just lined up sexual sins as the senior prefects of all the lust of the flesh.

Is it not clear from all these that sexual sins exclude you from God’s kingdom? There is no need for a pair of spectacles to see the Biblical position.

Why Pre-Marital Sex Is Always Wrong

Allow us to turn our attention now to the issue of pre-marital sex. Advocates for pre-marital sex are loud. What are some of their arguments?

“Well, we love each other and when we have sex, is it hurting you? What’s your problem?”

“We are going to get married anyway; therefore, what is wrong with it?”

“Everybody is doing it anyway, including some spiritual Christians, and they are teasing me for remaining a virgin.”

“If I don’t sleep with him/her, my partner will find someone else to satisfy his/her sexual lusts and I will lose them.”

“Why do you want me to be governed by the Bible, a book which is 2,000 years old, while I am living in the 21st century? Moreover, times have changed; what was wrong in Biblical times is now acceptable.”

“But the government has legalized it, so there is no problem.”

“If I don’t have sexual relations with my partner before we marry, how can I know we are compatible or that there is no sexual problem with them?”

“We are all sinners: who are you to judge me? You are also not perfect. Let God judge us all.”

“Nature is sexually promiscuous -- look at even the animals. Besides, it is natural for someone of my age to have sexual urges and release them.”

“We are married in God’s eyes.”

“I can still have a good relationship with God because He understands. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

And the list goes on as we justify ourselves.

We have to understand that pre-marital sex is actually only the tip of the iceberg. Before anyone gets involved in pre-marital sex, his mind, heart, emotions, thoughts and attitudes have already been polluted before God (Matt. 5:28; 12:34; Mk. 7:21-23). Sexual sin is ultimately rooted in your soul and spirit.

Here are ten reasons why pre-marital sex is always wrong. Many people feel that God is just sitting in heaven and making difficult laws, banning our sexual pleasures and restricting us from enjoying ourselves. They forget that God's laws are meant for our good, not for God's good. When God commands us not to steal, and a thief is caught, subjected to mob justice, and imprisoned, it's not God who is jailed; it's not God who is shamed. The law that "You shall not steal" is for our good. In the same way, all the sexual no-go areas in the Bible are for our own good.

What does premarital sex do?

1. It can bring unwanted, unprepared-for pregnancy which you are not socially ready for. This leaves the couple -- or especially the woman -- with only two options: kill the baby or keep the baby, and face the consequences either way. Hundreds of thousands of babies are aborted because couples had a sexual act and, without being prepared for it, a pregnancy came. Alternatively, after nine months, you bring into the

world a baby you are not ready for so that the baby starts life with rejection and low-self-esteem.

2. It can bring sexually-transmitted diseases: from HIV/AIDS, to syphilis, gonorrhea, or herpes, many of these sexually transmitted diseases have defied medical science, and you may get in your body very severe results of indiscriminate sex.
3. Sex outside marriage is the number one cause of induced abortion. 70% of Europe's unintended pregnancies are aborted. The WHO cites that there are 40-50 million abortions worldwide every year, or approximately 125,000 abortions every day¹.

The problem is that abortion scars not only your womb, but also your conscience. When Cain killed his brother in Genesis 4:9, God told Cain that, "Your brother's blood which you shed is crying and shouting to me in heaven." This was the blood of Abel, who was old and even able to defend himself; how much more do you think the blood of an innocent and defenseless baby cries out against you?

When you kill a baby, your conscience carries the mark of shedding innocent blood. Don't get confused -- God counts a fetus as a baby, because in Jeremiah 1:5, the Bible says, "*Before I formed you in the womb,*

¹ <https://www.worldometers.info/abortions/>

I knew you, *before* you came out of your mother's womb, I sanctified you and ordained you to be a prophet to the nations." Even *before* the formation of the fetus (no matter what week), God identifies the baby as a person with a divine purpose. The Bible says in Luke 1:15 of John the Baptist, that the child would be "filled with the Holy Spirit *from the mother's womb.*" You can never cause abortion and go scot-free before God.

4. Pre-marital sex leads to resulting soul-ties. In 1 Cor. 6:16, Paul tells us that whenever you have a sexual relationship with someone, you become one flesh with the person and you are joined spiritually to the person; your souls are tied together. Verse 17 explains further that when you join yourself with Jesus, you become one spirit with Jesus.

The truth is that whenever you have sexual relations with any human being, your soul is linked up together with that person, and for years to come that person has access to you sexually through your soul. This long-lasting spiritual union between sexual partners can only be broken by the blood of Jesus.

5. Pre-marital sex often leads to regret and distrust of one another in marriage. Because you could both not control yourselves before the wedding, whenever

you travel or you see your partner interacting with somebody of the opposite sex, electric signals begin to flash in your head that because s/he wasn't able to control themselves when you were in courtship, you must be careful. S/he may give in to this person too. You can't trust one another because you were not able to stay sexually pure in the period before the marriage.

6. Pre-marital sex lays a foundation of always over-prioritizing sex and sexual lust within the marriage context. This blinds you to the real faults of the one you are courting or the one who is courting you. Because you are already sexually involved with the person, it is difficult for you to see any other faults. Moreover, even after marriage, sex looms up and takes an unhealthy place. If sex was such a huge deal, no married person would ever leave their bedroom. It is only lust which makes you think that you will die if you don't sleep with someone before you are married, or that there is no other way to assess your sexual compatibility.
7. Premarital sex is not a guarantee that a man will agree to marry you. Men see the women they sleep with as conquered territory, so they go around looking for another woman they can conquer. If you really love the girl and you are going to marry her, why are you in a hurry to sleep with her?

After all, she's going to be yours for 40, 50, 60 years of marriage: why the hurry if it is not lust?

But the flipside is that (and every guy should hear this), some ladies also go around just looking for a man with whom they can have a child, a man who is handsome enough to give them a handsome child; they are not actually interested in marriage. Sometimes, it is money they are after, and they know that they can start blackmailing you once they are sleeping with you. I also know of women who get pregnant from sleeping around with some other man, but quickly rush to sleep with the man they want to marry and then tell the latter that they are the father. The more I counsel people on this, the more I see that it's a fallacy to think that love means 'sleep with me before marriage'. Look at Amnon and Tamar in 2 Samuel 13. Amnon claimed to love Tamar, his own half-sister, but it was just lust; after sleeping with her, he hated her and pushed her out.

8. Pre-marital sex between adolescents is the greatest single factor responsible for single parenting. Even where the ladies refuse to abort the child, many a young girl finds herself trapped. They are saddled with babies out of wedlock that they are not only ashamed to own, but decidedly have to fend for alone.

Unprepared and unemployed young men flee the responsibility. Their parents are reluctant to add the burden of a baby to the paying of school fees, and in many cases, these children struggle unfairly through life as objects of sin. Moreover, it then obscures the lady's chance of a fresh marriage. Who wants "second-hand" goods?

9. Premarital sex plays a very big role in the destruction of a person's destiny, family and ministry. The Bible has enough examples. Let us look at three of them. First, Samson. An angel was sent two times to tell the parents of Samson that their child (Samson) has a great destiny. But he messed up because of sexual sin. In the homes of prostitutes and on the thighs of Delilah, Samson wasted his anointing. Sexual immorality broke him and his ministry forever (Judges 16).

Again, do you remember the extra-marital affair between Bathsheba and King David? From 2 Samuel Chapters 1 to 11 David kept rising militarily, rising politically, rising spiritually, and rising socially because God was with him. From the time he sinned in the Bathsheba adultery, he started getting punishment after punishment: Amnon raped his half-sister Tamar, Absalom killed Amnon, then came the Absalom coup d'état, and wars came upon the kingdom, and he just kept paying for it for the rest of his life.

Thirdly, do you remember Reuben in Genesis 35? Reuben, the firstborn of Jacob, went and slept with his father's wife. Jacob heard it but kept quiet. The day Jacob was going to die, he called all his children and cursed Reuben (Genesis 49). Jacob said, "Reuben, you are my firstborn, you are my excellency and my strength, but you will not prevail again because you went up to my bed, you went to my couch." After cursing him and dealing with the rest, he folded his legs and died. There was no appeal court. If you read the whole Bible, no king ever came from the tribe of Reuben; no judge, no prominent person came from the tribe of Reuben, because of sexual immorality. The whole tribe carried the shame of their father. It kept being repeated till even 1 Chronicles, the end of the Jewish Bible.

Illicit sex can destroy your ministry; it can destroy your life; it can destroy your family. Sex can destroy everything you stand for. Your spouse distrusts you every time. Your friends abandon you when they get to know that you are sexually immoral and undependable. Your conscience worries you. Sexual sins can collapse your ministry altogether. We can tell you of many men and women of God whose ministries were destroyed by sexual immorality. If you cannot control your pants/trousers before marriage, what makes you think you can control it after marriage?

10. Finally, God will bring you into judgment for premarital sex (Heb. 13:4; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:3,4; Col. 3:5-7). The righteous, holy, and inflexible moral laws of God are no respecters of persons. What a man sows, that he shall reap (Gal. 6:7; Rom. 7:12). God allows us time on this earth for repentance, and He has given us a lot of grace in Christ Jesus who died for us when we were still sinners. But now He commands all men everywhere to repent because He has fixed a day for judging the whole world by the standards of Jesus Christ. He gave proof of this by raising him from the dead (Acts 17:30,31). It is appointed unto man once to die, but after that comes judgment (Heb. 9:27). Do not be deceived. Even if you are not immediately punished on earth, your punishment is waiting for you (1 Tim. 5:24).

This is only a summary of the spiritual damage premarital sex causes. Let me clear my throat a little bit more on the topic.

The Bible and Your Body

I have been having to deal with a lot of questions from Christians regarding what they are allowed to do with their body. It appears that many believers are still struggling with the spiritual reality that once you give your life to Christ, no part of your body is yours to do whatever you want with it.

From tattoos to nose piercings, cremation, dressing, haircuts, sexual liberties, career and educational decisions, every aspect of our being is no longer ours. We are dead. In reality:

- My body is God's special creation (Gen. 2:7). It will be raised at the resurrection (Phil. 3:20,21).
- My body has been bought with a price (1 Cor. 6:20; 7:23)
- My body is Christ's body (1 Cor. 6:13-17; Rom. 12:5,6)
- My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:18,19; 3:16)
- My body is united with Christ (Rom. 6:3,4; Gal. 2:20)
- We are to offer our bodies to God as living sacrifices (Rom. 12:2).

The Bible is clear that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19). We are the habitation of God through the Spirit, the very dwelling place of God.

Every other sin we commit is outside the body, but sexual sins in particular invade and desecrate the very bedroom of the Spirit of God. The New Testament Greek word used in both passages in 1 Corinthians is *naos*. *Naos* is the inner sanctuary where the 'god' resides on the altar.

The outer temple is referred to as *hieron*, but the shrine is the *naos*.

Moreover, sexual sins dismember the body of Christ because we are members of Christ's body (1 Cor. 6:13-20). Sexual sins do violence to the Lordship of Jesus over our bodies. God dwells in us and we dwell in God (1 Jn. 4:15; 2 Cor. 6:16; Col. 1:27). God is at work in us to will and do according to His own pleasure (Phil. 2:13).

Sexual sins insult the Spirit of grace and trample the blood of Jesus under foot (Heb. 10:26-29). Sexual sins frustrate God's work of sanctification in us through the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 3:18; 7:1; 1 Thess. 4:3-11).

Therefore, sexual purity is not something we can afford to trifle with as believers. There is more at stake than we realize. We are sinning against God, against the other person, against our own bodies, and piling up judgment for all these. In light of these considerations, go through whatever argument you have been using to excuse yourself. Does it still hold?

Sexually-Transmitted Diseases and Infections

These are diseases and infections caused by viruses, bacteria, and parasites as a result of vaginal, anal or oral sex. Examples are HIV/AIDS; HPV; Chlamydia; Gonorrhea; Syphilis; Pubic Lice; Trichomoniasis; and Herpes.

The symptoms of these include:

- Sores or bumps on the genitals, or in the oral, or rectal area
- Painful or burning sensations during urination
- Discharge from the penis
- Unusual or odd-smelling vaginal discharge
- Unusual vaginal bleeding
- Pain during sex
- Sore, swollen lymph nodes, particularly in the groin, but sometimes more widespread
- Lower abdominal pain
- Fever
- Rashes over the trunk, hands or feet

The last two chapters have been an attempt to persuade you that sexual purity is for today, because sexual sins are dangerous for the body, mind and spirit; that pre-marital sex is always wrong, and that God detests and the Bible abhors sexual sins. The next chapter answers the question of how to overcome sexual sins forever.