

Immorality

By Steve Stutzman

Immorality is sexual activity outside of marriage.

Perhaps nothing on earth connects us as fully to another human as does sex. For this reason, God has assigned to this element of life acute pleasure. We are intended to discover a level of satisfaction, pleasure, intimate connection, fulfillment, relaxation, and oneness in sex that cannot be found anywhere else. Because of this it is intensely precious in God's economy, and is to be reserved for marriage between a man and a woman – the ultimate Type of Christ and the Church.

Sex represents the joining together of two very different individuals. Because of the profound picture and power of life it represents, it is never to be trifled with. Whenever it is toyed with outside of marriage, there will be consequences. The potential for deep, psychological and spiritual connection means there is also the possibility of deep, psychological and spiritual damage. If you have engaged in sexual activity before or outside of your marriage, you have been damaged – probably much more than you care to realize or acknowledge.

As we have pointed out in other places on this site and in teachings, man is created in three parts; body, soul, spirit. Sex actually excites desire on all three levels – and promises to fill them. When a person engages in immorality, they form a bond with the other person's soul and spirit. If sex is treated casually, the soul and spirit of the individual become so wounded and scarred they become unable to truly attach to someone they marry, even though the sexual activity is now sanctified. This creates a frustration on the spirit and soul level, eventually bleeding over into the physical level.

Deep psychological and spiritual needs now go unmet by normal intimacy. Soon the body refuses to cooperate: erectile dysfunctions, inability to climax, and dissatisfactions cause folks to turn to evil in an attempt to find fulfillment. Folks turn to other partners, homosexuality, bondage, perversions, drugs, masturbation, pornography...whatever evil presents itself, in an effort to fill the void. In reality, the problem grows worse.

Relationships become strained. Secrets grow. Fear of being found out begins to rule the day and night. Insomnia and disease flourish. Anger surfaces. And Satan laughs.

People resolve to come clean, to start over, to be moral. We cry out to God for victory. We try ... fall ... try harder. And fall again. We walk in the shame of our failure. Or, we accept moral failure as normal and attempt to just live with it. Satan laughs some more, because he knows our ability to connect truly

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with a Holy God is greatly hindered by our own unholiness. (II Corinthians 7:1 'Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.')

He knows the Temple of the Holy Ghost is defiled, giving him access to destroy.

And destroy he does.

But there is hope

You can be restored to absolute freedom, moral purity, and peace. You can! As you eat the bread of healing in spirit, and in soul, the crumbs of physical healing often follow. Relationships can become real and meaningful again.

Is the healing process painful? Often, yes. The dark, ugly, hidden things of the past must be brought to light. The shame has to be faced, repented of, and dismissed. Each encounter and activity of illegitimate sexual activity needs to be carefully cleared at the cross. Spirits that crawled on you through the immorality must be broken off, and healing from Christ ministered to you.

Come to a conference, we will help you. Or, check out one of the conferences by Bruce Lengeman. At the very least, purchase his book or audio on the real root causes of sexual addictions, *To Kill a Lion*. It can be found on our website, www.straitpaths.com. As Bruce will show in his book, sexual desires are connected to a host of emotional and spiritual needs. Sometimes when people are starved, or deficient, in an area of emotional need, it surfaces as a sexual drive. In men, this can often be caused by an absent, distant, or controlling mother. In women, the damage is usually caused by an uncaring, distant, abusive, absent, or demanding father. Then emotional deficiencies and vacuums are always magnified by any type of sexual abuse. (See also, thread on abuse and molestation.)

There are many angles to cover to find healing and wholeness, as sex by its very nature is complex. But your freedom has been bought and paid for by Christ Himself. He wants you, even now, to be able to accomplish His design for you on earth – reaching others. But please, do not continue in the pathway of defeat, deceit, and shame. The cost is too high, and the damage too great, both to you, your spouse, and your children. God Bless you on your journey toward healing, and living from a whole heart of true love.