

SO WHAT'S WRONG WITH ADULTERY AND FORNICATION?

Biblical Perspectives on Sex Outside Marriage

3 Biblical themes:

1) Theft:

Female sex is the property of a woman's father and/or husband. Therefore, sex outside of marriage is a form of **theft**, a way that men do wrong to other men.

3 Biblical themes:

2) Purity:

Sexual contact produces varying degrees of **impurity**. In the OT, impurity is associated with all forms of sexual contact, including sex between husband and wife. In the NT, particularly Paul, sex outside marriage is treated as a source of impurity.

3 Biblical themes:

3) Love:

Sex outside marriage is construed as selfish indulgence that **violates the love command**, “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Lev 19:18).

Complex 1: Theft

Exodus 22:16-17

“When a man seduces a virgin who is not engaged to be married, and lies with her, he shall give the bride-price for her and make her his wife. But if her father refuses to give her to him, he shall pay an amount equal to the bride-price for virgins.”

Complex 1: Theft

Deuteronomy 22:28-29

“If a man meets a virgin who is not engaged, and seizes her and lies with her, and they are caught in the act, the man who lay with her shall give fifty shekels of silver to the young woman’s father, and she shall become his wife. Because he violated her, he shall not be permitted to divorce her as long as he lives.”

Complex 1: Theft

Q: Why couldn't Joseph have sex with Potiphar's wife?

A: "My master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my hand. He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except yourself, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

Complex 1: Theft

Q: What was wrong with what David did with Bathsheeba?

A: “You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife. . . . Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, for you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.”

Complex 2: Purity

- “You have a *filthy* mind”
- “*dirty* movies”
- “*foul* language”

Complex 2: Purity

Leviticus 18: Do not have sex with . . .

- your parents or step-parents
- your siblings
- your grandchildren
- aunts/uncles
- in laws (children or siblings)

Complex 2: Purity

Leviticus 18: Do not have sex with . . .

- a woman having her period
- a person of the same sex
- an animal

Complex 2: Purity

Leviticus 18:24-30

“Do not *defile* yourselves in any of these ways, for by all these practices the nations I am casting out before you have *defiled* themselves.

Complex 2: Purity

Leviticus 18:24-30

“... But you shall keep my statutes and ordinances and commit none of these *abominations* . . . otherwise the land will vomit you out for *defiling* it. . . .”

Complex 2: Purity

Ephesians 5:3

“But fornication and impurity of any kind, or greed, must not even be mentioned among you . . .”

Complex 2: Purity

Ephesians 5:5

“... no fornicator or *impure* person, or one who is greedy ... has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.”

Complex 2: Purity

1 Timothy 5:1-2

“Do not speak harshly to an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers,

Complex 2: Purity

1 Timothy 5:1-2

“older women as mothers, younger women as sisters in all purity.”

Complex 2: Purity

1 Corinthians 6:13-20

“The body is not meant for
fornication but for the Lord, and the
Lord for the body. . . .

Complex 2: Purity

1 Corinthians 6:13-20

“Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never!

Complex 2: Purity

1 Corinthians 6:13-20

“Do you not know that whoever is united with a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, ‘The two shall be one flesh.’ [Gen 2:24] . . .

Complex 2: Purity

1 Corinthians 6:13-20

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own?”

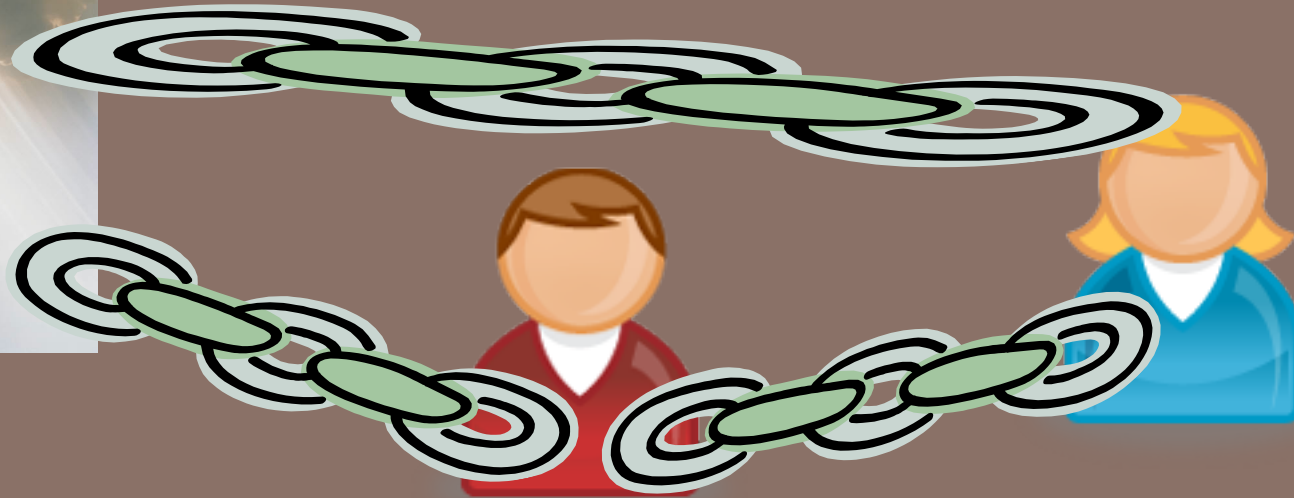
Complex 2: Purity

1 Corinthians 6:13-20

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Complex 2: Purity

1 Corinthians 6:13-20



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Biblical Perspectives on Sex Outside Marriage

Complex 2: Purity

“Abominable”



Biblical Perspectives on Sex Outside Marriage

Complex 2: Purity

“Abominable”



Biblical Perspectives on Sex Outside Marriage

Complex 3: Love

“Love your neighbor as yourself.”
(Lev 19:18)

Complex 3: Love

- Other people do not exist to serve my needs or fulfill my desires.
- I exist to serve other people's needs.

Complex 3: Love

Matthew 5:27-32

“You have heard that it was said,
‘You shall not commit adultery.’

Complex 3: Love

Matthew 5:27-32

“But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. . . .”

Complex 3: Love

Matthew 5:27-32

“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’”

Complex 3: Love

Matthew 5:27-32

“But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for the accusation of sexual misconduct, causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”

Complex 3: Love

Exodus 20:14

“You shall not commit adultery.”

Deut 24:1

“... he writes her a certificate of divorce, puts it in her hand, and sends her out of his house ...”

Complex 3: Love

“You shall not commit adultery”

+ “Love your neighbor as yourself”

= do not lust; lust is not love

Complex 3: Love

“he writes her a certificate of divorce”

+ “Love your neighbor as yourself”

= “he causes her to commit adultery”

Conclusion: Do and Do Not

1) “Thou shalt not steal”

- adultery (sex with a person who is married to someone else)
- taking someone else’s partner

Conclusion: Do and Do Not

2) “Dirty” Sex

- monogamous heterosexuality is permissible; everything else defiles
- “impure” = “My relationship with God is broken or compromised.”

Conclusion: Do and Do Not

3) Love does no harm

- never engage in sex simply to serve your own interests
- never do anything sexually that would hurt another person