

# Flee Fornication

By Dale D. Robins

***“Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.” – I Cor. 6:18***

Immorality is a sin almost as old as time. Man has a strong urge for sex but frequently does not have the will to control his appetite for it.

Men and women alike enjoy the seductiveness of forbidden pleasures and can easily be ensnared. The Hebrew writer tells us, *“Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge”* (Heb. 13:4). Sex – in its rightful context – is a wonderful thing, but the lawless abandon of restraint leads to sinfulness.

We live in a very promiscuous society that sees little reason for self-control. Many sex education programs are built on the premise that people cannot control their urges, so the focus is on “safe sex.” To them, the commission of sin is a given so folks just need to avoid sexually transmitted diseases or an unplanned pregnancy. The road to sinfulness begins long before the actual commission of the act. Jesus said, *“Ye have heard it said... Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart”* (Matt. 5:27-28). Sin originates in the heart as Jesus said, *“That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceeds evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defileth the man.”* (Mk. 7:20-23). The sinful desires take root in the heart before they are acted upon. That is where we need to focus our teaching – on being *“pure in heart”* (Matt. 5:8).

Christians are being taught to control their impulses, to resist temptation, and to *“keep thyself pure”* (I Tim. 5:22), but many are not listening. The call of the world sweeps them into sin, for opportunities to sin are everywhere. Many of our young people wind up dealing with unplanned pregnancies because they did not refrain. Even many older members – elders, preachers, deacons, teachers – are falling prey to doing obscene things, pornography, adultery, and fornication. These things *“ought not so to be”* (Jas. 3:10). As Paul said, *“they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of heaven”* (Gal. 5:21). Momentary pleasure in sin can lead to an eternity in Hell. Fornication/immorality is serious stuff!