

"Flee immorality. 'Every sin a man commits is outside the body,' but the immoral man sins against his own body. Or do you now know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body" (I Corinthians 6:18-20).

The word "fugitive" is derived from the word "flee." A fugitive runs from the law. He gets as far away and stays as far away from his captors as possible. So too must we when it comes to immorality. We cannot live near it and accept it but hope to escape its capture. Flee immorality.

WHAT we should do is not really the issue is it? We know we must flee fornication, adultery, pornography, and all types of unlawful sexual sin. The bigger question is HOW?

Here are a few suggestions beginning in **I Corinthians 6:**

I. Flee Arguments that Seek to Justify Immoral Behavior

A belief system called Gnosticism was prominent in Bible times. This belief basically taught that as long as you know God in your heart, what you do with you body is of no spiritual consequence. Sound familiar? Yes, we hear this same kind of argument today. Paul answers their arguments in these verses.

- a. *"All things are lawful for me." - (v.12)*
"Every sin a man commits is outside the body." - (v.18)
- b. *"Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food." - (v.13)*
- c. *"My body belongs to me!" - (v.15,20)*

II. Flee all things that Lead To or Promote It.

"Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amount to idolatry" (Colossians 3:1-5).

- a. Flee Personal Ignorance. - (Proverbs 7:1-7)
- b. Flee Immoral People. - (Proverbs 7:6-15)
- c. Flee Compromising Environments. - (Proverbs 7:16-17; 5:7-8)

III. Flee because of the Consequences!

- a. The Pain Inflicted upon Jesus. - (I Corinthians 15:3)
- b. The Grief leveled against Yourself. - (Psalm 32:3-4)
- c. The Negative Effect on Everyone. - (II Samuel 12:10-12)

We plead with our young people not to fall into these traps. The consequences may never dissipate. However, for those who have fallen to immoral sin, take heart in the words from our initial text: *"Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God" (6:11).* If we repent and say, "never again," and stand by the commitment to be holy to the Lord, He will forgive us and restore us to purity in His sight.