

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Bill Brittenham

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper

Mike Davis Bill Rinehart
Sonny Monaghan Jerry Schnelle

Prayers

Mark Davis Preston Ellis

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements

Bill Brittenham

Song Leader

Jack Calvert

Lord's Supper

Mike Davis Bill Rinehart

Prayers

Dee Minter Bryan Garlock

WEDNESDAY

Announcements

Dee Minter

Song Leader

Jack Calvert

Prayers

Wendell Mobley Gerald Eaton

Invitation

Bryan Garlock

ABOUT US

Elders

Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

Deacons

Jon Barry Bill Brittenham
Mike Davis Dave Massey

Evangelist

Bryan Garlock

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

Bible Study9:30 A.M.
Worship10:15 A.M.
Worship6:00 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study7:00 P.M.

WWW.TXKCHURCH.COM

GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION

Hear the word of truth Romans 10:13-17

Believe the truth..... Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24

Repent from all sins Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38

Confess the name of Christ ... Matthew 10:32-33; Acts 8:35-30

Be Baptized in His name Mark 16:16;
1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12

Walk in newness of life and **be faithful** unto death Romans 6:1-4; Revelation 2:10

Think On These Things

Franklin Drive Church of Christ

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Volume XXIII

August 5, 2018

Issue 31

Why Is Fornication Wrong?

Bryan Garlock

“Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.” (Heb. 13.4, ESV)

Fornication, or sexual immorality, is illicit sexual relations outside of a Scriptural marriage. By Scriptural marriage, we mean one male and one female who are eligible for marriage per Scripture. There are many who have entered adulterous or illegitimate (same-sex) marriages where two individuals have no right to one another – though the government has given allowance.

Sexual immorality involves more than illicit sexual relations between a man and a woman who have no right to one another. It is a comprehensive term that includes incest, bestiality, homosexuality, adultery, and any sexual acts that encourage

lascivious emotions and lust - forerunners to fornication.

Fornication is wrong because God said so, and that settles it. In His wisdom, He knows what is best for us, and sex outside of marriage is *never* good for us. We must learn to trust Him over any deceitful and soul-damning pleasures.

Sexual immorality violates God's design and purpose for sexual fulfillment in marriage (1 Cor. 7.1-5). In creating man and woman, God's desire for the two was to become one flesh through marriage (Gen. 2.24) and not to be alone (Gen. 2.18).

Sexual immorality perverts this design and negates the purpose of the covenant. Consider God's covenant with His people. Is He faithful to the covenant? Does He undermine the covenant by fellowshiping with those outside of the covenant? Of course not. Now, consider the other party

FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember and check on our shut-ins: **Willie Margaret Mobley, Bob Buls, Bonnie Allgor, Maxine Burnham, and Francine Davis.** Cards, calls and visits are ALWAYS needed and appreciated.

Melvin Potts had successful back surgery this past week.

Wendell Mobley is having tests.

Our Fall Gospel Meeting is Sept. 9-12 with **Gary Henry.**

Cont. from page 1

– God’s people. When they put something before God, spiritual adultery – idolatry – is committed. Since God purposed that blessings would be enjoyed in a covenant relationship, then to act outside of that relationship is to destroy the one-flesh-covenant. Therefore, Paul taught that sexual immorality is a sin against one’s own body – for the body was not created for sexual immorality – nor to become one flesh with one who is not in a covenant (see 1 Cor. 6.12-20). Let the reader understand. Paul does not teach that we are joined in marriage when two individuals sexually engage with each other; otherwise, there would be no sexual immorality. Paul’s point is that when one engages in sexual union with whom they are not in a covenant, he surrenders his body to her and loses his spiritual union with Christ, just as Eve surrendered her will to the serpent and broke covenant with God.

Not only is illicit sex unlawful, but it can dominate one, making him a slave of his passions. Consequently, this damages the way one views and treats others. For example, one does not love nor care for the person he fornicates with nor is he typically concerned with establishing a covenant with them. Otherwise, he would not surrender himself to – nor pursue a physical union with – a prostitute (cf. 1 Cor. 6.16). Thus, illicit sex is an end to fulfill lust and selfish gratification wherein love, commitment, and covenantal responsibility are thrown to the wind.

Why is sexual immorality so prevalent? There are many factors – not enough teaching, God’s will is not honored, self-control is not practiced, and television shows and pornography cause curious minds to act out. Additionally, it seems as if the church has done a disservice to our youth by creating a negative connotation around the word “sex”, as if it is a bad, “hush, hush” word. However, everything God created was good and proper, including sex (Gen. 1.31). Unfortunately, some squirm in their pews when it is talked about from the pulpit (though it is a biblical subject), while the world exalts sexual immorality and even teaches our children in school how to have safe sex! Thus, not only are they learning the worst about sex, they are not hearing the truth on the matter, either. Consequently, we are living in times where many believe that sex is just a normal thing that two people “in love” do.

God’s word teaches us how to view sex and that it is a beautiful and good thing between a husband and his wife. Interestingly, when the law of Moses was read to all the people –

including the parts about sex – they did not skip over it nor try to dumb it down for the children. They taught it as God taught it. Perhaps if we did not shy away from teaching God’s view of sex we would have less sexual immorality. BG

Do You Have a Willing Mind?

Bryan Garlock

“And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will cast you off forever. Be careful now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong and do it.”

In 1 Chronicles 28.9-10, David charges his son Solomon to know God, to willingly serve Him with a whole heart, and to be strong and do what God has chosen him to do.

To know God is to know His nature, His character, and His Holiness. By understanding our God, we are better equipped to know what is holy and unholy, and how to better glorify Him. To serve God is to be obedient to Him from the heart, not out of habit or to please those around us. However, let us focus on two points from David’s instructions – serve God “with a whole heart and with a willing mind” and “be strong and do it”. This is what it means to seek Him (Heb. 11.6).

Have you ever felt as if you are unsuccessful in your spiritual life? As if you

are continuously falling short of serving God? Why?

Have you ever noticed that you are only successful with the things you put your mind to when your heart is in it? Could it be, then, that sometimes we are not successful in serving God because we do not have a willing mind?

How do we fix that? Obviously, we need to examine our lives and determine what distractions – idols – are keeping us from loving God with all our heart. However, we would also do well to listen to David’s counsel. First, remember God’s promises of being blessed (by seeking Him) or condemned (by forsaking Him), and secondly, remember that we have been chosen by Him to carry out His will.

Peter said we “are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” (1 Peter 2.9) Paul said, “we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Eph. 2.10)

This is what God has chosen us to do. Perhaps we just need to “be strong and do it”. BG

Psalm 34:15 The eyes of Jehovah are toward the righteous, And his ears are open unto their cry.