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# Words of Truth

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## Hebrews 13:4

By: Brian A. Yeager

*“Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge”* (Hebrews 13:4). This passage of Scripture begins by pointing out that marriage is esteemed; most precious (Strong’s # 5093). This sentiment is echoed throughout the Scriptures. Solomon wrote: *“Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD”* (Proverbs 18:22). When the pattern God set forth for marriage is followed among two believers (i.e. Ephesians 5:22-33), you have a wonderful relationship with two people working together to be heirs together of the grace of life (I Peter 3:7).

From the beginning, our Lord looked upon the needs of man and decided to establish the marital relationship. Notice: *“And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed”* (Genesis 2:15-25).

The word translated “bed” [κοίτη] is defined as this: “a couch; by extension, cohabitation; by implication, the male sperm: — bed, chambering, x conceive...” (Strong’s # 2845). That word has been translated as an actual bed (Luke 11:7). It also has been translated “conceived” (Romans 9:10) and “chambering” (Romans 13:13). The word translated as “undefiled” [ἀμίαντος] is defined like this: “Unsoiled, i.e. (figuratively) pure: — undefiled...” (Strong’s # 283). Every time this term is used in the New Testament it is translated as “undefiled” (Hebrews 7:26, James 1:27, and I Peter 1:4).

The point of the marriage bed being undefiled is really simple and it ties to the point made at the end of the verse. Marriage is the appropriate relationship wherein sexual activity is to be had. Sex, in itself, is not dirty or bad. Sex is not only for procreation. Sex is pleasurable and is something married Christians can lawfully enjoy. Taking pleasure from the body of the opposite sex is natural and lawful within a marriage (Proverbs 5:18-19). Sin enters in when sexual pleasure is sought outside of a lawful marriage.

Notice what was written to the saints in Corinth as those words serve as a great commentary to our current study: *“Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body. And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power. Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s. Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband. Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency”* (I Corinthians 6:13-7:5). {\*Note: Since the Holy Ghost is mentioned in the above quote, I want to give this information to clear up any possible misunderstanding. The saints in Corinth had miraculous spiritual gifts through the Holy Spirit which have ceased to exist today (I Corinthians 12:1-14:40).}

The term translated “whoremonger” [πόρνος] is defined like this: “a (male) prostitute (as venal), i.e. (by analogy) a debauchee (libertine): — fornicator, whoremonger...” (Strong’s # 4205). In other Scriptures that term is translated “fornicators” (I Corinthians 5:9-11 and I Corinthians 6:9), “fornicator” (Hebrews 12:16), or whoremongers (Ephesians 5:5, I Timothy 1:10, Revelation 21:8, and Revelation 22:15). Fornication and adultery are both sinful activities throughout both the Old and New Testaments (Exodus 20:14, Leviticus 20:10, Deuteronomy 5:18, Matthew 5:27-32, Acts 15:20, Romans 1:18-32, Romans 13:9, Galatians 5:19-21, Ephesians 5:3, and I Thessalonians 4:1-5).

Marriage can be a joyful relationship (Ecclesiastes 9:9). Fornication on the other hand only leads to eternal damnation (Jude 1:7). Sex is not worth eternal damnation!