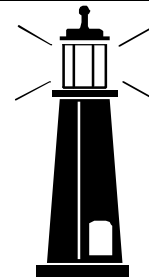


The Berryville church of Christ

Bible Beacon



"Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

Volume 2, Issue 41

October 19th, 2003

The Sin of Fornication

Kevin Cauley

It was not too many years ago after graduating from college that I took a job working at the student health center at the University of Texas at Austin. Not too long after my employment there, I learned that there was a program in place that actually encouraged the students of the University to have sex with one another. The student health center was key in promoting this program. The participants of the program were trained to hold classes and work in booths to promote the concept of "safe sex," to teach people how to have sex, and to promote sex as a recreational activity. The participants were volunteers, but each participant was required to have sex (whether they were married or not) a specified number of times each week. So, the University of Texas, was actually sponsoring a program, for which state money was being spent, that required its participants to engage in the sin of fornication. Needless to say, I didn't stay in that job for very long.

This true situation is illustrative of the attitudes that society currently has toward fornication. The sexual revolution of the sixties brought sexual activity out of the privacy of the home and publicly placed it squarely in the face of every person who lives in America. It is now, not uncommon to hear people discussing their sex life with their friends in public places. We are constantly barraged with the lust for sex on television, radio, movie theaters, art displays, books, newspapers, the Internet, and other public venues in which free speech is allowed. While many of these venues have embraced fornication for quite some time, their depictions of such activity are increasingly graphic and offensive. When asked why they do such, the answer is always the same, "because society demands it." And in my experience, I have found this to be basically correct. Society, as a whole, does demand this type

of content within their entertainment. What, then, is a Christian to do?

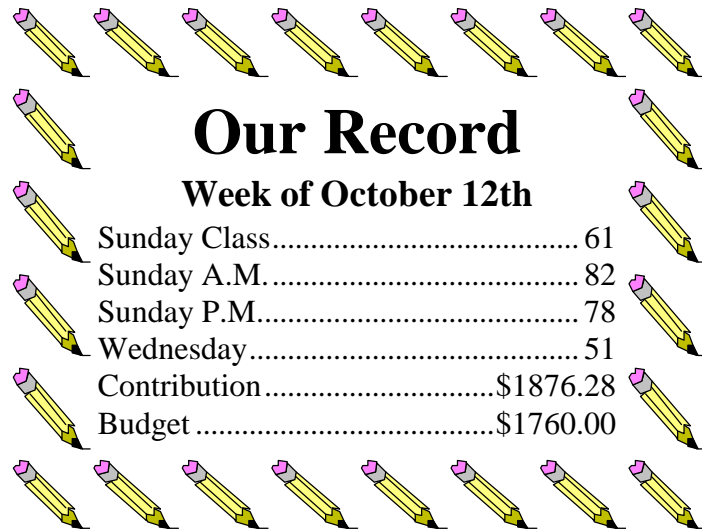
We must educate everyone we know as to what the sin of fornication is. Most importantly, we must educate our children! At one time, society's silence regarding the issue was enough to let many young people know that there was something not right about it. However, society does not act that way toward fornication any more. Society now glamorizes and embraces such activity as recreational, fun, and just like going to the movies. Society is not going to teach our children that such behavior is sinful, so we MUST teach them. I once received a question in which a young person in asking a related question indicated that he did not know that fornication was a sin. There should not be any young person that we know who does not understand the sinfulness of fornication. For one to grow up not understanding such is a serious failure on our part as adults to teach the word of God. With that in mind, let us pursue a little education in this matter.

The word "fornication" is considered to be obsolete in the English language, but it is, nonetheless, a word that many recognize and understand. Most modern versions of the Bible use the phrase "sexual immorality" in its place today. But the phrase "sexual immorality" simply does not capture the correct concept that the word "fornication" provides. Fornication is the illicit interaction of sexual genitalia between two persons of the opposite sex, persons of the same sex whether men or woman, or some person and an animal of the same or opposite sex. The only place where God approves of sexual relations is between a husband and a wife in a private setting. This means that everything else within the above definition, is fornication. Sexual immorality includes fornication, but is not specific enough. Sexual immorality includes the concept of petting, but petting is not necessarily fornication, although it is condemned within the Bible as lasciviousness.

What do the scriptures say regarding fornication? There are several passages which speak of

fornication as a sin. One such is found in 1 Corinthians 6:18, "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body." Fornication is a sin, the likes of which, it takes the flesh of our own body to commit. When one commits fornication, the body is the instrument for the sin. Paul contrasts the sin of fornication with being sanctified in 1 Thessalonians 4:3 "For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication." The sin of fornication militates against Christian sanctification, holiness, and purity. Those who practice fornication, we are told, will not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9). Fornication is a salvation issue!

Let us resolve as Christians to educate everyone around us regarding the sin of fornication. Let us especially resolve to educate our children regarding this particular sin. Christians have a calling to be holy and those who are not holy will not see God (Hebrews 12:14). If we desire to live godly, pure, and sanctified lives, then we will abstain from fornication. Those who do not, will not see eternal life. That's plain and simple Bible doctrine.



Sunday Class.....	61
Sunday A.M.....	82
Sunday P.M.....	78
Wednesday.....	51
Contribution.....	\$1876.28
Budget.....	\$1760.00

Sunday's Sermons

For October 19th

Morning..... Dietary Restrictions
 Scripture..... Leviticus 11:46, 47
Evening..... Catholicism (2)
 Scripture..... 1 John 4:1

Kevin's Korner



I didn't get to tell my snake story last week in the bulletin, so I will tell it this week. I was mowing the lawn and I turned over the boys "turtle" sand box and there was a beautiful garter snake looking like he was huddling up for winter under the sand box. Well, he wasn't moving very fast because it was kind of cool, so I got a stick and stopped him, then picked him up. We had such fun with that snake that week. I ended up taking him to Austin and Charlie's school. The kids were all very interested, but the teacher's didn't seem to want very much to do with it for some reason. I finally ended up giving the snake to a middle school teacher and I believe that that teacher turned the snake loose, away from the lawnmowers.

Last week we also had McTeacher's night at McDonalds. This is an annual event to help support the schools. It is likely McDonald's busiest night of the year. There were people and kids everywhere. This is a great event and it does a wonderful service for our community. The class that brings the most kids gets a hamburger party each year and Charlie's class brought the most kids this year. They "partied" yesterday.

This past Friday we had a wonderful hay ride with Cub Scout Pack 128. We have several boys who are part of this pack: Austin Cauley, Charles Elliott, Jeffrey Pinkley, Braden and Hunter Stevens, and Chandler Youngblood. It was fun to ride around in the dark on a flat bed trailer. For some reason, Brent was convinced that there was a bear in the woods. The boys however, kept seeing coyotes. We visited, sang, howled like wolves, then came back to a nice toasty campfire and ate hotdogs. It was a very enjoyable time.

Elders: Clay Bozarth, Leon Duncan, Bruce Foster, Bill Fort, Glenn Quigley

Deacons: Ken Smith, Brent Stevens, Rusty Windle.

Preacher: Kevin Cauley 870-423-6707

Times of Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class:.....9:30 AM
 Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
 Sunday Evening Worship:6:00 PM
 Ladies Bible Class:..... 10:30 AM
 Wed. Evening Bible Class:.....7:00 PM

TRUTHFUL ADMISSIONS THE DAY THAT JESUS DIED

Roger D. Campbell

The morning and afternoon of the day that Jesus was crucified, a number of people made open confessions about whom He really was. Hours before His crucifixion, Jesus stood before the Jewish Sanhedrin and enraged its members when He responded, "I am" when asked if He was "the Christ, the Son of the Blessed" (Mark 14:62). But what were mere mortals openly admitting about God's Son that fateful day?

First there was Judas Iscariot, the betrayer. Judas had covenanted with the Jewish leaders to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:14-16). The morning that Jesus was condemned to death, however, Judas returned to those leaders and "brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood" (Matthew 27:3,4). Sadly, Judas proceeded to go out and hang himself (27:5). What did he gain by confessing that Jesus was "innocent?" Did he receive monetary compensation for such? No. Was he elevated to a high position, or did he have praises heaped upon him for such an admission? No. He simply told the truth – Jesus' blood was innocent because He was the sinless Son of God (Hebrews 4:14,15).

Then there was Pilate's wife. When Jesus was being questioned by Pilate, the governor of Judaea, Pilate's wife sent this message to him about the Christ: "Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him" (Matthew 27:19). Just as in the case of Judas, Pilate's wife would not be rewarded or compensated for making such an admission about Jesus. Yet, her honest analysis was to call our Lord "just." The word "just" is often used interchangeably in the New Testament with the word "righteous." "Just" is from the Greek word "dikaios," which means "in a wide sense, upright, righteous, virtuous, keeping the commands of God . . . innocent, faultless, guiltless" [Thayer, p. 148]. Our Lord was upright and innocent, and the wife of Pilate recognized it.

Next there was Pilate himself. Three times in a span of time that could not have exceeded three hours, Pilate admitted that Jesus was innocent. "Then said Pilate to the chief priests and to the people, I find no fault in this man . . . And Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, said unto them . . . I, having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him: No, nor yet

Herod . . . And he said unto them the third time, Why, what evil hath he done? I have found no cause of death in him" (Luke 23:4,13-15,22). Pilate was by no means a committed follower of the Christ, yet he admitted the truth: there was no fault in Him.

Jesus was crucified at Calvary with one criminal on His right hand and one on His left (Luke 23:33). At one point "they that were crucified with him reviled him" (Mark 15:32). But, it is also written that after one of those malefactors railed on Jesus, the other one responded by saying to him, ". . . we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this man [Jesus, rdc] hath done nothing amiss" (Luke 23:41). This criminal that was nigh unto death simply gave an unbiased appraisal of Jesus' innocence.

One final scene remains to be noticed. After Jesus died, amazing things began to happen. The veil of the temple was torn, there was an earthquake, and graves were opened (Matthew 27:50-53). That is when the Roman soldier in charge of the crucifixion, as well as those that were with him, made a great admission: "Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God" (Matthew 27:54). These soldiers had no built-in favoritism for Jesus. They simply called it as it really was: "Truly this was the Son of God."

Judas Iscariot, Pilate's wife, Pilate himself, one of the thieves, plus a centurion and those with him – what did all of these have in common? On the day of our Lord's death, each of them, in one way or another, made a truthful admission about Jesus, confessing that He was innocent, just, or the Son of God. There was no material, social, or political gain for any of them by making such an admission. They simply spoke the truth, and their truthful statements are recorded in the Bible for us.

Do we believe that Jesus really is the Son of God, that He rose from the dead, and that He still lives? Absolutely. Why? Because the word of God declares these truths for us. The message of Jesus' life and acts that He carried out is recorded in order to convince us that He was the Christ, the Son of the living God (John 20:30,31). Those truthful admissions that we have examined – those that were made on the day of Jesus' death – serve to reinforce the message that runs throughout the first four books of the New Testament: Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. May we ever appreciate His sinless life and His sacrifice that provides for the salvation of our souls. "Truly this was the Son of God."

News, Notes and Prayer List



- Please remember the following in your prayers: Michael Collins, William Craig, Curtis and Opal Hull, Katie Williams.

- We extend our deepest sympathies to the family of Preston Jones who passed from this life this past week.
- Edith Mischler is in the nursing home in Eureka Springs.
- Art Roberts and Mary Patterson are confined to their homes.
- We rejoice with Neva Welch, at the birth of Taran Douglas to Jason and Lana Kay Fletcher. Taran was born this past Wednesday morning at 2:25 AM. He weighed 8 lbs and 12 oz and was 22 inches long. All are doing well at this time.
- Our monthly elders and deacons meeting will be held this evening after services. If you have something that needs to be discussed, please speak with one of the participants.
- Our monthly potluck is today, despite the efforts of some to get it changed to next week (Ahem, Matt!). I guess we will just save a plate for him.
- On Friday, October 31st, we will have our annual Halloween costume party at the Windles' house. Trick or treating starts at 5:00 PM. Dinner will be served at 6:30. Please bring chips and drinks, but Rusty said to leave the chocolate in the question and answer box in Kevin's office.
- The Casseville church of Christ is hosting their annual ladies night on November 3rd. Dinner will be served at 6:00 and the worship begins at 7:15. The theme for this years event is "The Season of our Lives." If you wish to go, see Shawna Stevens or Tiffany Windle.
- The Pantry Item for this week is Pancake Mix.



Those to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Sunday Morning:	October 19th, 2003	October 26th, 2003
Song Leader:	Ken Smith	Larry Elliott
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Bruce Foster	Bob Moore
Scripture:	Leon Duncan	Matt Bassing
Lord's Table:	Larry Elliott	Bill Fort
	Rusty Windle	Bruce Foster
(assist)	John Gass	Ray Duncan
	Matt Bassing	Perry Foster
Closing Prayer	Glenn Williams	John Gass
Sunday Night:		
Songs:	Rusty Windle	Ken Smith
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Larry Elliott	Ken Smith
Scripture:	Brent Moore	Bruce Foster
Lord's Table:	Leon Duncan	Dale Pinkley
	Ray Duncan	Brent Moore
Closing Prayer	John Gass	Brandon Foster
Wednesday		
Songs:	Kevin Cauley	Bruce Foster
Opening Prayer:	Leon Duncan	Matt Bassing
Invitation:	Bob Moore	Kevin Cauley
Closing Prayer:	Sandy Nieves	Brent Moore
Monthly Assignments		
Announcements	Matt Bassing	
Worship Coordinator	Ken Smith	
Communion Prep	Pam Pinkley	Debbie Smith
Communion Carry	Leon Duncan	Ray Duncan

The "Berryville Bible Beacon" is published by the Berryville church of Christ. Please contact Kevin Cauley at work at (870) 423-3068 or at home at (870) 423-6707 or e-mail bvcc@alltel.net to contribute information.

For questions or comments, please call (870) 423-3068 or write us at:
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