

# AVOID SEXUAL SINS

**B**latant promotion of immodesty and public display of carnal affection are increasing day by day. In these days, pornographic images and movies are easily available to all, and even children view them with ease. Sexually explicit music is also listened to as entertainment. Many talk about extramarital sexual activity as normal. Sexual immorality is like an unstoppable plague of our time, corrupting and destroying individuals and families!

Here are some very appalling reports about the sexual decadence that appeared in our country's leading newspaper, The Straits Times, in recent years:

"One in two teenagers here has watched or read sexually explicit materials, a poll has found, with some as young as seven when they were first exposed to it. And one in three admitted viewing pornography in the past year, whether intentional or accidental. The first large-scale survey here to examine children's exposure to pornography, which polled 836 students aged 13 to 15, was conducted by Touch Cyber Wellness, the main agency that gives online safety talks in schools here. Experts say the findings are worrying as such content affects young people's attitudes and behaviour towards love and sex, and may lead to sexual crimes."

(See more at: <http://www.straitstimes.com/news/singapore/more-singapore-stories/story/half-teens-singapore-exposed-pornographysurvey-20140906#sthash.vEtap2VS.dpuf>)

"Underage sex on the rise in Singapore, say social workers: More teenagers are becoming sexually active – with an increasing number thinking that it is normal for them to have sex, social workers say. Figures from the State Courts show a steady growth in the number of cases of sex with a minor

– that is, sex with a girl under 16, which is a crime even if she gives her consent. Last year, there were 76 cases of the offence, down from 89 in 2013, but still an increase from 63 in 2012 and 36 in 2011...

Social workers told The Straits Times that young people are typically referred to counsellors for behavioural problems but, during counselling, they sometimes open up on their sexual experiences. Ms Lena Teo, assistant director of counselling at the Children-at-Risk Empowerment Association (Care Singapore), said: "I've seen roughly 20 per cent more underage sex cases over the years. Nowadays, teens are more tech-savvy and some lack parental control. They are more experimental because of curiosity and hormones raging at that age. It could also be peer pressure."

(A report by Lim Yi Han, published on Feb 9, 2015, 6.45 am SGT – <http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/underage-sex-on-the-rise-in-singapore-say-social-workers>)

"The number of teenage girls getting pregnant in the past decade has dropped massively, and it is not because fewer of them are having sex. Instead, social workers say, it is because today's teens are more savvy about using contraceptives. There were 359 babies born to girls aged 19 and under last year. This is the lowest in 25 years, going by checks of the Report on Registration of Births and Deaths published annually by the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority."

(A report published on Feb 22, 2016, 5.00 am SGT – <http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/big-drop-in-number-of-teen-pregnancies>)

With such reports, we can easily discern the severity of the moral decay of our society. You do not have to be an expert to know how accepting our society is when it comes to promiscuity, both in thought and deed.

However, the Bible teaches us the avoidance of sexual sins. There is nothing better than prevention when it comes to sexual sins. If sexual sins occur, there can be severe consequences of various kinds. Most certainly, God will forgive those who repent of such sins. Nonetheless, the consequences of such an action can linger on for a long time. So, the best is prevention.

One of the sad things about those who commit sexual sins is that they often live in serious denial about their sin. They believe that they will never get caught and somehow, life will continue to move towards a happily-ever-after ending. But let us take heed of the age-old warning: "Be sure your sin will find you out" (Numbers 32:23).

## The Scriptures Prescribe Prevention

Our attitude towards scriptural admonitions and counsel should not be “when all else fail, read instructions”. Many consumers try to assemble or operate things that they buy even without taking a look at the manufacturer’s instruction manual. They only refer to it when they are in trouble. If we take such an attitude towards the biblical instructions given to us by our Great Creator, we will not be able to prevent many tragic and disastrous events. This is especially so with regard to sexual sins.

If you have carefully read the Scriptures to find out what God says about sexual sins, you will certainly realise that nowhere does He counsel us to try it once and then think of how to get out of it. On the contrary, the Scriptures repeatedly warn us not to engage in any sexual conduct outside marriage and call for total abstinence from sexual activities outside marriage:

“Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body” (1 Corinthians 6:13).

“Flee fornication” (1 Corinthians 6:18).

“Flee also youthful lusts” (2 Timothy 2:22).

“... abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, ...” (Acts 15:20).

“But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints” (Ephesians 5:3).

“Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, ...” (Colossians 3:5).

“For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication” (1 Thessalonians 4:3).

“Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge” (Hebrews 13:4).

“Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul” (1 Peter 2:11).

“For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries” (1 Peter 4:3).

“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, ... shall inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Corinthians 6:9-10; cf. Galatians 5:19-21).

The Scriptures’ clear message to the unmarried is: “Wait till you get married”; to the married, it is equally clear: “Don’t - with anyone other than your spouse.”

## Scriptural Reasons for Avoidance

### Sexual sins distort the purpose of God concerning Christians' bodies

1 Corinthians 6:13-14 says, "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." Believers' bodies, according to God's design and purposes, are not just for biological functions. They are also for the Lord (cf. verse 13). Verse 14 reminds us that our bodies are not only for the service of the Lord in this world, but also for the heaven to come. God will raise our bodies one day as glorified or heavenly bodies to serve Him for ever and ever in that sinless world. Since our bodies are for the Lord forever, we must not pervert their purposes by polluting them with sexual sins.

### Sexual sins desecrate the spiritual body of the Lord

1 Corinthians 6:15-17 records, "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." Believers' bodies are not only for the Lord's service, but are also inseparable members of His own body. Romans 12:5 says, "So we, being many, are one body in Christ." So, for Christians to commit sexual sins is to use a part of Christ's body to commit immorality. Because sexual relationship involves a union, the Christian who commits adultery or fornication joins Christ's members with the members of a harlot. What an abomination to corrupt the Lord's holiness by such an association!

### Sexual sins damage Christians' bodies

1 Corinthians 6:18 warns, "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body." Paul is saying that sexual sins are more destructive to the body than any other sin. From the experiences of many, we know that sexual immorality not only brings horrendous diseases, but also can drive one to depression and even suicide.

### Sexual sins desecrate the temple of the Spirit

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 admonishes, "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." The bodies of Christians have been made the temple of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit rejoices in indwelling and sanctifying our bodies to be a glorious temple for Him, but sexual sins will instead desecrate the bodies that are consecrated. Sexual sins, in other words, are sacrilegious!

## Scriptural Advice for Prevention

### **Refrain from flirtatious comments and gestures**

Godly wisdom advises us to be kept and delivered “from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words; which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God. For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead” (Proverbs 2:16-18; cf. Proverbs 7:5, 21), as well as “from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman. Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids” (Proverbs 6:24-25).

### **Guard your eyes and ways**

Scripture, in no uncertain terms, warns us in Proverbs 7:6-21 of the ruin that befalls an unrestrained man who allows himself to sink deep into sexual immorality. This description is given that we may avoid such situation at all costs.

“For at the window of my house I looked through my casement, and beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding, passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house, in the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night: and, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart. (She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house: Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.) So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him, I have peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows. Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee. I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt. I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves. For the goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey: he hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at the day appointed. With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him.”

Avoid places of temptation. During courtship, young couples must not be alone in quiet places whereby they may be tempted to sin. Married people must be deliberate in not developing close or intimate friendships with people of the opposite sex.

### **Remind yourself of severe consequences**

Scripture further warns us in Proverbs 7:22-23 of the serious consequences of sexual sins. “He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life.” Finally, do not ever forget Scripture’s unequivocal warning against the unrepentant of eternal judgment (cf. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21)!