

# University Heights Church of Christ

BULLETIN

July 6, 2008

## What Are People Proud Of?

There are people on earth that are **proud** of things that they should be **ashamed of**. It has been so since ancient times. To be without shame regarding shameful behavior does not transform shameful behavior.

**Philippians 3: 19** *"Whose end [is] destruction, whose God [is their] belly, and [whose] glory [is] in their shame, who mind earthly things."*

Some are proud of their prowess as liars, some of their ability as thieves, some of their ability to let others pay their way or to practice fraud. Some are proud of their sexual misbehavior or of their ability to lead secret lives or to mislead others as to their affections, loyalties, motives, fidelity, integrity or character.

When the angels of God visited Sodom the men of that city attempted to sexually assault them. Those fornicators of that city had absolutely no embarrassment about what they were attempting to do. They were not attempting to hide their actions from anybody. They made no bones about the fact that they intended to sexually assault Lot's houseguests.

**Genesis 19:4** *"But before they lay down, the men of the city, [even] the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter. 5 And they called to Lot, and said to him, 'Where [are] the men which came in to you this night? Bring them out to us, that we may know them.'"*

It seems that the entire population of Sodom with the exception of Lot was completely in favor of fornication of every description. If questioned about their fornication they could probably with complete honesty say, "All of the men here, with the exception of poor old hopelessly inhibited Lot, fornicate. You know it must be all right if we all do it. What is your problem?"

Fornication is a thing to be avoided.

**1Corinthians 6: 18** *"Flee fornication. Every sin that a man does is without the body; but he that commits fornication sins against his own body."*

The way to avoid fornication is for each man to have his own wife and for each woman to have her own husband.

**1Corinthians 7: 2** *"Nevertheless, [to avoid] fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband."*

The problem with fornication is that God is in heaven and God punishes fornication.

**Hebrews 13: 4** *"Marriage [is] honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."*

God rained fire on the proud fornicators of Sodom.

**Jude 7** *"Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire."*

We have not heard of a city lately that has been burned up for fornication, but is being burned up the only possible expression of God's judgement against fornication? How many dollars, or their equivalent, has any government on earth ever spent to treat sexually transmitted diseases in the lives of those who have never ever engaged in any form of sexual intercourse outside of a marriage that is lawful according to the Bible definition of "lawful marriage"? The answer is zero to none. Compare that to the figures for those proud fornicators, who shaking their fists in the face of God put gratification of their ungodly sexual desires above all else in their lives. The costs of treatment of their sexually transmitted diseases are bankrupting whole nations. Yet those fornicators are proud of their choice to gratify their sexual desires through the sin of fornication. They are proud that their lack of willingness to control their sexual desires and gratify those desires only according to God's revealed will has filled the earth with unnecessary pain, suffering, deprivation and indescribably horrible death. What heroes among humans are those proud fornicators.

How would the world respond to a company that produced and distributed a product that did to the human population of the world what fornication is doing? How would the world respond to a nation that used a weapon in war that did to the human population of the world what fornication is doing? Would the world give comfort to either the company or the nation and encourage them to keep on doing what they were doing in spite of the devastating results? Or would the world insist that they be ashamed of themselves and cease and desist immediately forever?

The final word by God on fornication is that unrepentant fornicators of all kinds will not inherit the kingdom of God.

**1Corinthians 6: 9** *"Know you 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, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."*

*"Let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: for our God [is] a consuming fire."* Hebrews 12:28, 29

## Remember to Pray For

David and Chessie Harwell the parents of Jeff Harwell. Both are suffering from health problems  
The Harrisons in the death of Wiley's father  
Donna Caldwell Angela Abshur's aunt who has a fast growing tumor on her spine  
Mabel Greene the mother of Trina Bishop from Montgomery County  
Tony Tyree in Johnson City, TN  
Ruth Brundige Richard's mother  
Cindy Miller, Rob's mother  
Marlene Wood  
Glen Seabolt  
Christie Ellis  
Janie Smith  
Shirley Lewis  
Brady Gibbons  
Gail Hunter  
Larry Flannery  
Donnie Joseph  
Alexa Anne Harper  
Cheryl Spear  
Lanny Hiller  
Charity and Abdiel Pallafox  
Helen Stephens  
Chris Handshoe  
Chris and Jen Dooley  
Jeffrey Howerton  
Addison Pervine  
Carl Stripplehoff  
Karen Handshoe  
Tom Kemp  
Freda Blakey

### THESE ARE INFLUENCES THAT CHRISTIANS MUST AVOID

**2 Timothy 3: 13** "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."

**2 Peter 2: 14** "Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: a heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:"

**Jude 4** "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ."

**Matthew 7:15** "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves".

**Romans 16: 17** "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which you have learned; and avoid them."

RESIST THE DEVIL BY AVOIDING THESE INFLUENCES

## Thoughts

In **Matthew 19** Jesus was talking to the Jews about the document producing procedure that Moses gave in the Law of Moses.

**Deuteronomy 24:1** "When a man has taken a wife, and married her, and it comes to pass that she finds no favor in his eyes, because he has found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorce, and give [it] into her hand, and send her out of his house."

**When Jesus talked about putting asunder what God had joined together Jesus was talking about divorce. Jesus was talking about a sin that those people could and did commit simply by putting asunder what God had joined (divorcing) for some reason other than fornication.** Like every other sin, the sin of unlawful divorce is contrary to the will of God, but **sinner's can commit it.**

Eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was contrary to the will of God but in spite of that **Adam and Eve were able to sin by eating the fruit of that tree.**

When Jesus warned the Jews about the sin of separating what God had joined Jesus was warning the Jews about **a sin that they could and did commit by obtaining a divorce** for some reason other than fornication. From beginning to end that is what the conversation was about.

**Matthew 19:3** "The Pharisees also came to him, tempting him, and saying to him, **Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?**"

**Matthew 19:4** "And he answered and said to them, Have you not read, that he which made [them] at the beginning made them male and female, 5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? 6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. **What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder.**"

**Matthew 19: 7** "They said to him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorce, and to put her away? 8 He said to them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts allowed you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. 9 And I say to you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except [it be] for fornication, and shall marry another, commits adultery: and whoso marries her which is put away does commit adultery."

By following the recognized document producing procedure for divorce the Jews could and did separate what God had joined. Whether they divorced for fornication or not they still put asunder what God had joined when they divorced.

Putting asunder contrary to God's will what God has joined is not the **uncommitable sin**. The people that Jesus was talking to could and did **put asunder contrary to God's will what God had joined**. They did that by following the recognized document producing procedure for divorce. That was what the whole conversation was about.

Divorce was not then and is not now **a two stage procedure** where one party obtains a divorce by following the recognized document producing divorce procedure and later the other party has another "divorce" of their own for a different reason.

When an unlawful divorce takes place according to Jesus, **the sin is that man has separated what God has joined.**

**Question: How may a person commit the sin Jesus named in Matthew 19:6?**

## Notes

**MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING  
WEDNESDAY AFTER SERVICES**

**MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING  
NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 13, 4:00PM**

**RELIGIOUS PEOPLE DID  
AND STILL DO REJECT JESUS**  
Popular religion rejected Jesus and His message when Jesus was preaching in person on earth and today when popular religion practices a religion of its own invention instead of the one taught in the New Testament popular religion is still rejecting Jesus and His message.

**MY SON, IF SINNERS ENTICE  
YOU, CONSENT YOU NOT.**

**Proverbs 1:10**

**THE FEAR OF THE LORD [IS] THE  
BEGINNING OF KNOWLEDGE.**

**Proverbs 1:7**

**THE TURNING AWAY OF THE  
SIMPLE SHALL SLAY THEM, AND  
THE PROSPERITY OF FOOLS  
SHALL DESTROY THEM.**

**Proverbs 1: 32**

**THE LORD GIVES WISDOM: OUT  
OF HIS MOUTH [COMES]  
KNOWLEDGE AND  
UNDERSTANDING.**

**Proverbs 2:6**

## Schedule of Services

### Sunday Morning

Bible Classes 9:45am

Worship Service 10:45am

### Sunday Evening

Worship Service 6:00pm

### Wednesday Evening

Bible Studies for all ages 7:30pm

### Monthly Song Service

First Friday 7:30pm

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**COME STUDY THE BIBLE  
AND WORSHIP WITH US**