



## **THE COST OF SEX**

**By Kameel Majdali**



You could almost set your watch to it. The young lovers flee the scene, hand-in-hand. Partially afraid yet partially jubilant, they temporarily find refuge in an unlocked vintage model car. Within minutes, the windows begin to fog up. A solitary hand appears, pressed fully extended across the glass. Immediately the movie camera catches a glimpse of this magnetic young couple, man extended on top of the woman, engaging in sexual intercourse. It seems so naturally, so predictable, so romantic, so...right? Media images could also have placed them on the sands of the beach, mountain peaks, and even kitchen table tops. Yes, the couples involved are not married but, after all, everyone is doing it. Why not do it “in-style” and have some fun along the way.

This seemingly innocuous message is seeping more and more into mindset of church-going Christians. Somehow people have the idea that sex is “free” and responsibility for one’s actions can be ignored. As a result, sexual activity among single Christians, of all ages, has risen dramatically over the years. If this fact troubles, even grieves you, then we are headed in the right direction. However, the moral slide is slated to continue, unless... some one tells them that sex has a cost. That someone, Christian leader, is you.



## Back to the Bible

Once a taboo subject among “polite people,” it is becoming increasingly obvious that Christian leaders will need to address head-on the issue of human sexuality and Biblical morality. Before embarking on this holy mission, it is important that you are convinced that 1. the Bible is very clear about the issue of sexual conduct and 2. God has not changed His mind about these matters. After all, the law of gravity is still in operation, no matter we feel (just ask any skydiver). God’s laws are even more immutable!

It is also a good idea to return to the terminology used in God’s timeless Word for sex outside of marriage, especially when speaking to Christians.

**Fornication:** Sexual intercourse between unmarried persons. The Greek is *porneia* which means “illicit sexual intercourse”<sup>1</sup>

**Adultery:** Sexual intercourse by a married person with someone who is not their spouse. The Greek is *moichos* and means one who has illicit intercourse with someone else’s spouse.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> John 8:41; Acts 15:20, 29; 21:25; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:13, 18; 2 Cor. 12:21; Gal. 5:19; Eph. 5:3; Col. 3:5; 1 Thess. 4:3; Rev. 2:21; 9:21; in the plural in 1 Cor. 7:2;

## The Physical Cost

When asked about the most undesirable consequence of extramarital sexual relations, the immediate response is pregnancy. An unplanned pregnancy outside of marriage can be a problem, even a hardship, for many. Unwed mothers face the prospect of loneliness and even poverty; others choose to have an abortion, and there are risks and consequences with that action, too.

Truth is, however, that pregnancy is not the worse thing that can happen. The coming child is still made in the image of God and deserves full love, care, and nurture.

A far worse physical cost can be exacted as a result of fornication. It is called STD or sexually transmitted diseases. Back in the 1950s, there were only a handful of known STDs. Today, there are at least fifty and over half of them are incurable. AIDS, venereal diseases (VD), like herpes, genital warts, gonorrhea, and syphilis, are some of the possible diseases that can be contracted. It is easier to catch a STD than to become pregnant; after all, there is maximum of three days a month when pregnancy is possible, while a STD can be contracted any day of the month. Even if not fatal, STDs can render an individual infertile for life.

## Emotional Cost

Scripture teaches that when a man and woman come together, married or not, they become "one flesh." An emotional bonding takes place. Even if one partner does not feel affected, the other one may. If the relationship is tempestuous or broken, then a high emotional price will be exacted. Naturally, if pregnancy or STDs result, emotions will be compounded. For those with an intact conscience, the guilt at the loss of virtue, and the insecurity that results from such an uncommitted relationship, can be daunting, if not crippling. Loved ones will also suffer emotionally because of your indiscretions. The trust others have in you, which can take years to build up, will be destroyed in seconds.

## Spiritual Cost

Little is ever said about this, but it is the highest price of all. Galatians 6:7 (NKJV) warns "*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked. For whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.*" Even if pregnancy and S.T.D.'s never result from a lifestyle of sexual immorality, an emotional price will still be exacted. If in those rare instances an individual eludes the first two groupings, he or she will pay the spiritual price in this world, and in the world to come.<sup>3</sup>

We have already seen that both testaments are adamant that sexual sin is repugnant to a holy God. The New Testament is arguably much stricter on this issue than the Old. I Corinthians 6:9-10 (NKJV) "*Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the*

---

<sup>2</sup>Luke 18:11; 1 Cor. 6:9; Heb. 13:4.

<sup>3</sup> Of course, redemption in Christ can pay out this ultimate price tag. To appropriate this blessing, repentance and saving faith need to be exercised.

## MAJDALI: The Cost of Sex

*kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators...will inherit the kingdom of God.” Galatians 5:19-21 (NKJV) echoes the same, “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, licentiousness...21...of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”* As if to punctuate the point, the very last chapter of the Bible says that outside the walls of the heavenly Jerusalem are the sexually immoral (Revelation 22:15), or “whoremongers” in the Authorized King James Version. The point has been made sufficiently clear that the spiritual cost for sexual sin is forfeiture of an eternity with the living God. In other words, a person can lose his or her soul over sexual sin and that is a frightfully high price to pay.

Christians who slip into sexual sin are not exempted from paying these high prices. Those believers who have fallen into immorality know that the mere momentary pleasure is more than cancelled out by the heavy guilt and excessive damage to personal integrity. Even under the old covenant, where multiple wives and concubines were tolerated but never endorsed, King David paid an exorbitant price for his sexual sin. For committing adultery and murder, he was hounded the rest of his life with severe family troubles, including rape, bloodshed, sedition, and betrayal. Was a single night with Bathsheba (II Samuel 11:4-5) worth all this?

From the Biblical point-of-view, there is only one cost the godly person should pay for sex: a marriage ring. A holy marriage makes the winners out of the couple, the family, and the community. No wonder Hebrews 13:4 (NIV) says “*Marriage should be honoured by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.*” Christian leader: let us stand up and boldly proclaim it to the world: sexual sin is wrong! Now and always.