

Sexual Purity

"Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication **sinneth against his own body.**"
I Corinthians 6:18

In this passage the apostle makes a rather startling observation regarding sexual purity, summarized in verse 18. The context lets us know he is talking about our **resurrected body.**

You may rightly ask, "Is it not true that many things have a greater negative impact on the body than sex, such as drugs and alcohol?" Although this may be accurate, Paul is referring to our glorified body, the one we will have in heaven. For the believer to engage in sex with one not his wife or husband is to perform it in the temple of God,¹ a despicable act. **It would be analogous to the Old Testament high priest taking a whore into the Holy of Holies and copulating with her. Such a thing would be unthinkable.**

People have always known that the sexual act is more than physical; it has a mystical dimension as well. This is why pagan religions have temple prostitutes. **Biblically, for a Christian to have sex outside of marriage is a uniquely reprehensible sin; it is to have this mystical illicit union along with Christ who lives in him.** My sense, however, is in the believing community it is viewed as in the same class as gluttony. Wrong, yes, but viewed with benign indifference.

I have no idea what the consequences of this sin "against his own body" looks like, but you do well to reflect carefully on this **lest you live in eternal regret.**