

FORNICATION/HARLOTRY/IDOLATRY

In this teaching I will explain how the word "fornication" has been incorrectly changed from its original meaning. People seem to think fornication is sex outside of marriage, which is totally incorrect. Sex outside of marriage has nothing what-so-ever to do with fornication. This is not at all what it says in the Word of Yah. I will reveal that the word fornication simply means, prostitution (whoredom), or idolatry.



The origin of the word fornication in Hebrew (zanah), came from the temple prostitutes who served the fertility goddesses. These male or female temple prostitutes were available to the worshippers to have sex with. The sexual act was accepted as a sacrificial offering to the temple deity they represented because they were considered idols. They were the physical representative (image) of the deity. The male or female fluids ejaculated into the temple prostitute were thought of as a sexual sacrifice. Those who had sex with these temple harlots were called "fornicators". This sexual interaction was also considered as idolatry, sexual idolatry because, the fornicators were offering up sexual fluids to the fertility deity of the temple. Fornication can also be referring to either a male or female who charges money to have sexual intercourse with either married or unmarried partners.

Fornication derives from the Hebrew root "zanah". Strong's #2181 "zanah" (Hebrew) harlot, whoredom.

1) to commit fornication, be a harlot, play the harlot (a) (Qal)

1) to be a harlot, act as a harlot, commit fornication

2) to commit adultery

3) to be a cult prostitute

4) to be unfaithful (to God)

b) (Pual) to play the harlot

c) (Hiphil)

1) to cause to commit adultery

2) to force into prostitution

3) to commit fornication

Of the 94 times “zanah” appears in the bible, it is only used three times in regards to sex. The word “zanah” that is commonly translated as fornication is translated as: harlot 36 times, go a whoring 19 times, whoredom 15 times, whore 11 times, commit fornication 3 times, whorish 3 times, harlot 2 times, commit 1 time, continually 1 time, great 1 time, whore's 1 time.

The word Zanah is translated into fornication only four times and each time it's speaking of Israel's unrighteous alliances with an ungodly nation or deity.

2Chr. 21:11 *Moreover he made high places in the mountains of Judah, and caused the inhabitants of Jerusalem to commit **fornication**, and compelled Judah [thereto].*

Isa. 23:17 *And it shall come to pass after the end of seventy years, that the LORD will visit Tyre, and she shall turn to her hire, and shall commit **fornication** with all the kingdoms of the world upon the face of the earth.*

Ezek. 16:26 *Thou hast also committed **fornication** with the Egyptians thy neighbours, great of flesh; and hast increased thy whoredoms, to provoke me to anger.*

Ezek. 16:29 *Thou hast moreover multiplied thy **fornication** in the land of Canaan unto Chaldea; and yet thou wast not satisfied herewith.*

Fornication: in every form of it was sternly condemned by the Mosaic law (Lev. 21:9; 19:29; Deut. 22:20, 21, 23-29; 23:18; Ex. 22:16). (See ADULTERY.) But this word is more frequently used in a symbolical way rather than in its ordinary sense. It frequently means a forsaking of God or a following after idols (Isa. 1:2; Jer. 2:20; Ezek. 16; Hos. 1:2; 2:1-5; Jer. 3:8, 9).

Strong's Hebrew #2181. hînz zānah, zaw-naw´; a primitive root (highly-fed and therefore wanton); to commit adultery (usually of the female, and less often of simple fornication, rarely of involuntary ravishment); figuratively, to commit idolatry (the Jewish people being regarded as the spouse of Yhwh):—(cause to) commit **fornication**, x continually, x great, (be an, play the) harlot, (cause to be, play the) whore, (commit, fall to) whoredom, (cause to) go a-whoring, whorish.

Strong's Hebrew #8457 At taznuwth, taz-nooth´; or taznuth, taz-nooth´; from 2181; harlotry, i.e. (figuratively) idolatry:—**fornication**, whoredom.

Strong's Greek #4202-5 “porne/porneuo/porneia” (Greek) An idolater. A harlot, whore, whore monger. This may have included incest. From which we get the word pornography. por-ni´-ah; from 4203; harlotry (including adultery and incest); figuratively, idolatry: — fornication.

The translators could have easily translated this word as whoredoms and it would

still have retained its relevance. Each and every time the word is translated elsewhere it's referring to committing whoredoms and harlotry in the common sense of which we today use both words. Ladies and gentlemen I am afraid that fornication doesn't mean what we think it means. At least in the biblical sense of the word.

Religious prostitution is the practice of having sexual intercourse (with a person other than one's spouse) for a religious purpose. A woman engaged in such practices is sometimes called a temple prostitute or hierodule, though modern connotations of the term prostitute cause interpretations of these phrases to be highly misleading.

It was revered highly among Sumerians and Babylonians. In ancient sources (Herodotus, Thucydides) there are many traces of hieros gamos, starting perhaps with Babylon, where each woman had to reach, once a year, the sanctuary of Militta (Aphrodite or Nana/Anahita), and there have sex with a foreigner, as a sign of hospitality, for a symbolic price.

A similar type of prostitution was practised in Cyprus (Paphos) and in Corinth, Greece, where the temple counted more than a thousand prostitutes (hierodules), according to Strabo. It was widely in use in Sardinia and in some of the Phoenician cultures, usually in honour of the goddess Ashtart. Presumably by the Phoenicians, this practice was developed in other parts of the Mediterranean Sea, such as Erice (Sicily), Locri Epizephiri, Croton, Rossano Vaglio, and Sicca Veneria. Other hypotheses regard Asia Minor, Lydia, Syria and Etruscans.

It was common in Israel too, but some prophets, like Hosea and Ezekiel, strongly fought it; it is assumed that it was part of the cults of Canaan, where a significant proportion of prostitutes were male (roughly the same proportion as there were men in society at large, about 50%).

Hosea 4:14 *"I will not punish your daughters when they play the harlot Or your brides when they commit adultery, For [the men] themselves go apart with harlots **And offer sacrifices with temple prostitutes**; So the people without understanding are ruined."* To have intercourse with these temple prostitutes (religious prostitution) was considered an act of worship. Fertility, orgies, and sexual perversion, were some of the traits of the mortal /divine "Sun gods".

Let's look at a few verses that refer to making an offering of children or "seed" to fertility gods or goddesses:

Lev. 18:21 *And thou shalt **not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech**, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD (KJV)*

Lev. 18:3 *'**You shall not do what is done in the land of Egypt where you lived, nor are you to do what is done in the land of Canaan where I am bringing you; you shall not walk in their statutes.***

Jer. 32:35 *"**And they built the high places of Baal that are in the valley of Ben-hinnom to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire to Molech**, which I had not commanded them nor had it entered My mind that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.*

2Kgs. 23:10 *"**He also defiled Topheth, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter pass through the fire for Molech.***

In those days Canaanites were offering up not only their sperm to the Temple

prostitutes (vestal virgins..nuns), but also their babies. These offerings were made to Molech (Bel..Nimrod). Heathen priests would take a baby from the mother and offer it to Molech. Lest the parents should relent, a loud noise was made on drums to hide the screams of the parents. The Hebrew word for drums is “tophim”, from which comes the word “Tophet” (Strong’s #8612), the place mentioned in **Jer. 7:31** *And they have built the high places of Tophet, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my heart.* So, while drums were pounded, bands played loudly, and priests chanted to cover the screams of parents having their baby sacrificed to Molech.

The goddess Brighits temple at Kildare was looked after by woman who were then called “Vestal Virgins”. These woman, among other duties, tended the fires for heathen blood sacrifices. The vestal virgins wore chains around their necks with large “Crosses” on them like the nuns do today. Years later Brighits temple became a “convent” and her “Vestal Virgins” had their names changed to “Nuns”.

1Cor. 5:11 *“But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a **fornicator**, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.”*

Matt. 15:19 *“For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, **fornication's**, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:”* In this verse we see how adultery is separated from fornication.

Lev. 20:2-3 (KJV) *“Again, thou shalt say to the children of Israel, **Whosoever he be of the children of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn in Israel, that giveth any of his seed unto Molech; he shall surely be put to death: the people of the land shall stone him with stones. And I will set my face against that man, and will cut him off from among his people; because he hath given of his seed unto Molech, to defile my sanctuary, and to profane my holy name.**”* The “seed” being spoken of here is none other than the sperm ejaculated by a male during sex. To paraphrase: “anyone having sex (copulating) with the temple prostitutes (vestal virgins..nuns), will be cut off from among his people”.

Lets look at a few scriptures the Christian doctrine considers teachings against fornication in the old testament. The old testament is important because it's the set of laws and statutes that Yeshua the Messiah Himself followed:

Lev. 21:9 *And the daughter of any priest, if she profane herself by **playing the whore**, she profaneth her father: she shall be burnt with fire.*

How on earth does this pertain to fornication? It justifies what I have been saying that whoredom is wrong and archaic definition of the word fornication does not support the modern definition. Also, this is referring to a Priest's daughter.

Lev. 19:29 *Do not prostitute thy daughter, **to cause her to be a whore**; lest the land fall to whoredom, and the land become full of wickedness.*

So far we have NOTHING that fits the modern teachings, nor to support the modern teachings. This does support my stance even further. The scripture when speaking about fornication is referring to prostitution. NOT sex before marriage or sex between two unmarried people. Because as we will see married people can still fornicate.

Let's have a look at some commonly used Renewed Testament scriptures Christians miss-use in regards to fornication:

If we look at how the word fornication is used in the King James version of Matt. 5:32 we get a new understanding in regards to what Yeshua accepts as a reason for divorce.

Matt. 5:32 *“But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the **cause of fornication**, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.”* (KJV) This verse makes it clear that there were female fornicators visiting the temples. This fornication was apart from adultery.

Matt. 19:9 *“And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for **fornication**, and shall marry another, **committeth adultery**: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth **commit adultery**.”* In this verse it gets even worse. If a man marries a woman who fornicated, he was considered an adulterer even after she was divorced.

Matt. 5:32 *But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of **fornication**, makes her an adulteress; and that anyone who marries a divorcee commits adultery.* (CJB)

Interesting, if fornication is sex before marriage or sex between two unmarried people, then how can a married woman fornicate? Unless the definition is incorrect in the first place. Yet now that we have been enlightened and know that fornication means whoredom and prostitution, we now understand how this scripture is speaking to us.

Matt. 19:9 *And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except [it be] for **fornication**, and shall marry another, **committeth adultery**: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.* (KJV)

Matt. 19:9 *“And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman **commits adultery**.”* (NAS)

Matt. 19:9 *Now what I say to you is that whoever divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, and marries another woman **commits adultery!**”* (CJB)

John 8:41 *Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of **fornication**; we have one Father, [even] God. "we are not children of prostitution, we infact know who our father is..."*

Acts 15:20 *but that we write to them that they abstain from things contaminated by idols and from **fornication** and from what is strangled and from blood.* (KJV)

Acts 15:20 *Instead, we should write them a letter telling them to abstain from things polluted by idols, **from fornication**, from what is strangled and from blood.* (CJB) This scripture refers to the gentile converts who were converting to The Way. James gave just four commandments to the new converts as they were expected to gradually learn the law of Moshe in synagogue every shabbat/sabbath Acts 15:21. These gentile converts in the vicinity had grown up in cultures where temple prostitutes were the norm and well embraced by society. This mandate was to help them develop a cleanliness about them that they could be communicable to the Jew therein allowed to fellowship with a Jew since a jew was not to fellowship with a gentile. Mainly because of the gentile's lifestyle.

Acts 15:29 *That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from **fornication**: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.*

Acts 21:25 *As touching the Gentiles which believe, we have written [and] concluded that*

*they observe no such thing, save only that they keep themselves from [things] offered to idols, and from blood, and from strangled, and from **fornication**.*

What it is saying can be expressed like this: "if your going to come into this fellowship or around born again people (children, families, etc) you will not be any of the above. You must behave according to the standards laid out in scripture." Those things listed are like a malignant cancer, they can and do contaminate everything around them and that is not allowed with people who pursue torah. There must be a minimum standard in order to be part of the fellowship, camaraderie.

There are three things (essentials) the scriptures tell us that apply when you bring new brethren in to learn torah and have fellowship.

- 1) no idols
- 2) no sexual perverse person
- 3) keep kosher

If one cannot do those three things then you are not to come into fellowship with us to learn torah. If you can't deal with those three basic instructions now, then how can you deal with even more instructions required when pursuing torah? For the gentiles to be in fellowship with the torah pursuant believers they would have to first at least cease from three things.

Rom. 1:29 *Being filled with all unrighteousness, **fornication**, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, (KJV)*

Rom. 1:29 *They are filled with every kind of **wickedness**, evil, greed and vice; stuffed with jealousy, murder, quarrelling, dishonesty and ill-will; they are gossips, (CJB)* Notice the CJB does not use the word fornication here. Again it is associated with idolatry, prostitution, and other wicked things.

The CJB and NAS don't use the word fornication as sex between two unmarried people. It is always used in regards to idolatry or harlotry. If we look at what happened at the time of Gideon when he built a gold ephod (idol) we will see that harlotry/is spoken of in regards to idols, not sex. The people at the time of Gideon ended up worshipping an ephod after all Gideon's successful battles against the heathens of the land. Even though they followed the Holy One of Israel, they ended up committing harlotry with a golden idol.

Jgs. 8:27 *"And Gideon made it into an ephod, and placed it in his city, Ophrah, and **all Israel played the harlot with it there**, so that it became a snare to Gideon and his household."*

Have you learned to replace fornication with prostitution now?

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Bible Commentary Jerry Hennig (Dec 9/16)