

## Between the Sheets and Behind the Masks

Somewhere out there is a believer who is involved in a committed relationship, but they are not in a committed relationship with the Lord. They have committed themselves to someone else. Everything seems just fine between them and their lovers; the only problem is: they have not legally wed their significant others. In other words, they are participating in fornication. Oftentimes, believers believe that they are exempt from the Word of God because they go to church every Sunday, or because they tell others about the goodness of the Lord. The most commonly used justifications for sinning include:

- “God knows my heart.”
- “No one is perfect.”
- “Judge ye not unless you be judged!”
- “Only God can judge me!” (Do you REALLY want this to happen?)

This cunning justification undoubtedly came from the enemy because he knows that fornicators will not enter heaven. “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, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God” (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

Between the sheets they go to indulge in the rewards that were set aside for a husband and wife. They submit themselves to people that God did not anoint for them because these people nurture their voids and their lusts all the while keeping them company. Between the sheets they go, listening to sinful music that encourages them to continue in their sin. Between the sheets, the two lovers frolic in their sin not knowing that Satan never stands in the room without joining in on the action; therefore, they are involved in a threesome with the enemy.

Nevertheless, the average believer believes that these words, as well as any part of the Bible that comes against their sins is not for them; in their own minds, these words are for the unbelievers. This is not true! An unbeliever is not subject to the scriptures, even though they will be judged accordingly. The law of God was given for the people of God. It is a standard to live by; a way back to the heart of God, and a testing of our love for God. Yet, many believers continue to indulge in the sins of the heathen, thus making them partakers of the plagues and tribulations of the heathen. Many people of faith enjoy the pleasures of sin, all the while hoping for the rewards of faithfulness.

The convictions of fornication can be overwhelming for a believer because as believers, we want to believe we have enough time to “get right” before the Lord comes back and starts separating His flock from the damned. We try to act as husbands and wives, all the while planning our weddings in our heads. The plan is to save up enough money to have that big wedding to impress others, and then sail off to some tropical destination to enjoy one's honeymoon. That's the plan! But, oftentimes, the plan doesn't go as planned. You see; the enemy has no intention of allowing the believer to come out of

their sins. His plan is to kill them in the midst of their sin, but while they are living, he systematically aborts their blessings, attaches to and attacks their children, and he uses them to influence others to indulge in fornication. That's why you will find that most believers who participate in fornication openly flaunt their sin and try to minister to others. Truthfully, the enemy has convinced them that they have finally arrived at the blessings of God, but now all they have to do is "make it right." This is not true.

Think about it. The enemy is in between the sheets with the two lust-birds as they worship their Gods (their flesh) in sin. Do you really believe that the enemy would allow those two people that have allowed him into their lives, their hearts and their bedrooms to suddenly "make it right" with God and then kick him to the curb? If you believe that, you don't know how Satan works.

Fornication is idolatry. Anytime we place anyone or anything before God, we have just entered idolatry. The problem again is that most people want to go before the marriage altar before approaching the altar of God, and God will not ride in the backseat while our sins are at the wheel. God is a jealous God, and He desires all of you or none of you. There is no way that you can divide yourself in two and portion yourself out to sin and to God.

And fornication is not hard to get into...even for the most prolific believer. Fornication involves first accepting the lies of the enemy over the Word of God. When a person is in front of you telling you everything that you want to hear, it's not easy to overcome the sinful urges of our flesh because we want to believe that the person who has caused our hearts to skip a beat is actually the man or woman whom we've been waiting for! Even when we realize that the person isn't the right one, oftentimes, as believers, we still indulge in the relationship because it feeds a void that we have. That void can only be filled by God, but believers try to find others to fit into it.

Howbeit, many believers have a plan. Their plan is to continue in their fornication in hopes of making it to the wedding chapel to smooth things over with God by making their partners an "honest" man or woman. After this, they plan to drag these people to church in hopes of changing them into being the man or woman of God that they so desire. This just does not work; let me explain why. Imagine this: You are a man in a relationship with a woman whom you love intensely. You have been faithful to her; you have protected her; you have provided for her, and you have given her the best of you. Nevertheless, this woman goes out and starts up a relationship with another man. Of course, this man is nowhere as good as you are to her, but he is what she wants. She calls you often to ask you to wait on her. She plans to reconcile with you after she has made her new man an honest man. She says that after the wedding, her and her new man will move in with you, and they will both love you and honor you. She hangs up the line and calls you every night to say that she loves you, and she hopes that you do not give up on her. All the while, she comes by your house sometimes with her new beau, and they

both tell you how good you are. That's because you have been providing for them; therefore, they know that they need you, and they need to stay in your good graces. What would you do? The average person would end their relationship with her, forbid her and her beau from coming to their house, and would change their number. Now...this is exactly what most people do to God. In fornication, what you are saying to God is that He will come second to your needs, and you intend to make Him first in your life (or try to trick Him like He's first) when you get what you want....first. That's like marrying a woman, only to have her get up on her wedding day and give her virginity to someone else. After she returns, she tells you that you are NOW her first choice, even though you were not her first lover. How can we join ourselves to sin and expect to be a part of the Body of Christ?

Men and women alike give themselves over to idolatrous relationships looking for the VERY thing that God is: love. Please understand that idolatry is spiritual adultery. Adultery occurs when we sin against our spouses in the natural, but idolatry occurs when we sin against God, who is Spirit. Many believers are like the woman who kept calling her man and asking him to wait a little while longer. She doesn't realize that the man she is attempting to bring into the house of God is not a man of God; he serves the enemy of God. She plans to move God's enemy into His house! Of course, God won't let this happen; instead, He will hand her over to her lover to be his wife since he is who she chooses....first! In the rare case that the couple does marry, they don't realize that God is still not in their union because the union was not established on the foundation of God; therefore, it is not a secure foundation. As a matter of truth, the enemy has rights to that marriage because it was founded and built up in his territory: sin! That's why most marriages established in sin fall apart when one of the spouses decide to start serving the Lord entirely. The enemy basically gives the believer a choice: they can lose their marriage or walk away from the church. All the same, it is hard to convince a believer of this because they have seen many believers establish marriages on sin, and the marriages worked.

On that note, I can speak from my own experiences. Marriages established in sin can barely stand the breath of a trial; whereas marriages established on the foundation of Christ can endure the worst of earthquakes, the strongest of winds, and the fieriest of trials. When people say to me that my marriage (second one anyway) is doing well, even after I established it in sin; I often tell them that they probably wouldn't be able to survive the tests and trials that my spouse, and I have endured. We almost didn't survive it many times, and we are still dealing with the repercussions of our decisions a whole five years later! After speaking with believers who are still married to the men and women they once sinned with, I have learned that the repercussions oftentimes never go away. Sure, the marriage may get to a place where it is peaceful and loving, but more than 95% of marriages established in sin won't survive long enough to get to this place! That's because when you go into sin, you come out with a sinner, and a sinner is self-serving by nature, and they can't endure the fires associated with trials. All the same, because the sinner is self-serving, the believer will have to endure some hardships that they weren't cut out for. A sinner is just that....a sinner, and as such; they will eventually sin against you! Who are we to think that a person can willfully sin against the living God, but they won't sin against

us? What I had to endure was a restructuring of my union. It literally got torn down, and God had to build it back up His way. Do NOT think for one second that this tearing down is a simple process. It is a dying process for the believer who sends most unbelievers and believers running towards a divorce attorney....or a hit-man. (Don't do it.) That's because God will not bless anything that is not established on and in Him, so if your relationship is established or was established in sin, it will have to be torn down to its very foundation and built back up again in Him.

Nevertheless, many will just go back between the sheets to cuddle up with their lies, and will continue to reject the truth until the truth comes in with a whip. Sadly enough, most believers will never know what it feels like to be married to someone who loves them more than they love themselves. Most believers will never experience a love so deep that hell can't touch it. Most believers will never know what it feels like to TRULY be loved by someone who loves God. There is a difference! A man or woman who loves and fears the Lord with all their heart has a capacity to love you without limits, but a person who loves self and fears losing you can only love you conditionally or become dangerous because of their fear of losing you....their sin offering. Most believers will settle for the man or the woman who says what they want to hear today, and they'll be brokenhearted when their "chosen ones" says what they don't want to hear tomorrow. Most believers end up sharing the same testimony as the world because most believers don't believe God; they believe the enemy...and Satan is a liar! All the same, many children born to believers won't know what it's like to grow up with both parents in the house. They will share the same testimony as the world all the while testifying of it in the church.

Just know this:

- God is love, and you will NEVER find a better lover than He is...for He is the original Love!
- Sin doesn't produce blessings because sin is cursed.
- Even if you arrive at the altar of marriage, God will tear down your altar if you truly want to worship Him. You will then be required to sacrifice everything you built your marriage on, and re-establish that union in Christ...and this is NOT easy. Just ask around!
- Any relationship established in sin is an open doorway into the demonic, and demons don't play nice nor do they care that you are "in love" and "out of your mind."
- If the union comes before God in marriage, and you try to submit it to God...everything that you purchased may have to be thrown away because it represents your sin-time. God may require you to start all over again.
- If that union comes before God in marriage, and you try to submit it to God, everyone that you were linked with while establishing that union or because of that union will more than likely be removed from you. Oftentimes this is enough to destroy the union when one party or both parties are dependent on these individuals to keep the relationship fun.
- You can't walk away from the sinner just because he or she is getting on your nerves constantly. Once you're married...you're married unless God says otherwise!
- Even after you get what you want, God will still require what He needs. What this means is

you will still have to go back and do it His way....even in the midst of your union, and this is no easy task! God may send your spouse away just to have time with you....finally!

- What you want isn't always what you need, and what looks good to you today may not be so pretty tomorrow when the masks come off!
- While you are thinking that this message does not pertain to you, and that you have the “master” plan on how to get your relationship off to a Godly start, the enemy is already planning your demise or the demise of your relationship, and just as he made a silent entry, he will make a dramatic exit. It's not easy having a soul tie ripped away, and there are no bandages for hearts!
- Lastly...if it does not work, you STILL have to go back and wait on God! If God does accept your sincere repentance, you STILL have to wait on Him because He will test that relationship until you put Him first. Guess what? Most sinners don't like to be second, so your “chosen one” will likely go away when you attempt to put God before him or her.
- When you lie down with sin, you will always get pregnant with the seeds of sin: destruction, chaos, pangs, divorce, disease, insanity, demonic strongholds, death...and finally, you'll have hell to pay if you don't repent!
- Repentance isn't as easy as it sounds. Most people think “to repent” means to apologize to God. Nope. To repent means to turn away from the sin. You will be tested to see if you have truly turned away or if you would return to the sin if you deemed it necessary.
- Sin aborts blessings and births curses.
- God wants to grow you up in Him so you'll be mature enough to choose or be chosen by the right spouse; otherwise, you will choose someone while in your maturity...and immature people choose immature people! Guess what? If you are in Him, you are going to grow up and what fascinates you today won't be so fascinating tomorrow.
- God said He will never leave nor forsake you. Why trade that for someone who is likely going to leave, forsake, abuse, mistreat, misunderstand and misuse you?

Wait on God for your spouse. There is no right way to do wrong, and there are no sins put together in love. Sin is put together out of self-worship/ idolatry. Let God have His way with you so you can be amongst the few that experiences the intensity of a marriage built in Christ. There are no substitutes!