



How Satan Gains Access to Work in our Lives

Part 11: Sexual Sins

In this issue we will focus on how sexual sins enable Satan to gain access to one's life. As I have examined this issue in God's Word, He has deeply impressed upon me that the key to understanding His principles regarding sexual purity lies in fully comprehending the reality of His union with every believer. All too many Christians seem to view God as a wonderful, but distant and separate, entity to whom they can connect through prayer and worship when they choose to do so rather than truly grasping the union we have with Him on a moment to moment basis. His Spirit actually becomes one with our spirits, and our bodies become "temples" of the Holy Spirit as well as integral parts of Christ, who is one with the Father (John 14:20; 17:20-23; Rom. 8:9; cf. 12:1; 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:15-20).

Many also fail to understand the uniqueness and sanctity of the union that takes place between two individuals when they engage in sexual intercourse. God clearly states that through this act a husband and a wife so completely share themselves with each other that they move from being two distinct individuals to becoming "one flesh" (Gen. 2:24; Mat. 19:5-6). This ultimate experience of human unity is designed to mirror the spiritual unity between Christ and the Church (Eph. 5:28-32). Just as this spiritual unity is strictly limited to those truly within God's family, so also the act that brings sexual unity is sanctioned only between a husband and a wife within the context of marriage (Heb. 13:4).

When the true nature of these unions is grasped, the Christian cannot escape the reality that engaging in illicit sex brings God Himself into the ungodly sexual union (1 Cor. 6:15). This is what makes the commitment of acts such as adultery, incest, rape, homosexuality, or bestiality by Christians so grievous. God does not tolerate such defilement of His "temple" (Rom. 12:1) or of the marriage covenant (Heb. 13:4) and has proclaimed curses in the form of severe punishment upon all who do so. Sometimes this was death under the Old Testament Law although at other times grace was and is extended (John 8:3-11) and the curse carried out in the form of separation from the community of faith; barrenness or other physical ailments; depleted mental, spiritual, and emotional health; or lack of favor, justice, prosperity, or blessing (Lev. 18:6-29; 20:12-22; Num. 5:20-27; Deut. 27:20-23; 28:15-45; 1 Cor. 3:16-17; 5:1-6; 1 Thes. 4:3-6; Heb. 13:4; Jude 6-7). The role of Satan in fulfilling these curses is seen most clearly in the New Testament when Paul deliberately turned an immoral man over to Satan, seemingly for some form of bodily destruction (1 Cor. 5:1-5).

God's sacred intention for sexual intercourse as a bonding of a man and woman into a lifelong, one-flesh, marital relationship is inescapable in His Word. In the Old Testament Law, which revealed His standard of righteousness to mankind (Rom. 7:7, 13), He directed those who engaged in pre-marital sex to proceed to marriage (Ex. 22:16; Deut. 22:28-29) and strongly opposed the separation of those so bound (Mal. 2:13-16; Mat. 19:3-8). In the New Testament He reiterated His disdain for divorce and stated that even when divorce occurs, the sexual union established within the marriage is not to be violated through remarriage while the previous spouse is still alive. To do so would be committing adultery (Mat. 19:3-9; Mark 10:2-12; Rom. 7:1-3).

With the high standard that God has set regarding sexual relationships, man is caught in a struggle between obedience to Him and the allurements of Satan, who works subtly and yet powerfully through the flesh and the world system to get even Christians to lower their standards in this area (John 14:30; Rom. 7:14-25; Eph. 6:12; 1 Peter 2:11). Unfortunately, just as Adam and Eve experienced in the Garden of Eden, any time we say yes to Satan and go against God's commandments, we bring ourselves under the bondage of Satan and the curse of God, even in the age of grace in which we live (Gen. 2:15-17; 3:1-19; Rom. 6:15-16).

Through God's grace one can certainly achieve forgiveness, deliverance, restored fellowship with Him, and the removal of curses when confession and repentance of these sins occurs (1 John 1:6-9; Gal. 3:13). Anyone who continues in sin, however, will not only remain in bondage to Satan but will also deeply grieve the heart of God (Matt. 6:24; John 14:15; Rom. 6:16; 1 Thes. 4:7-8).