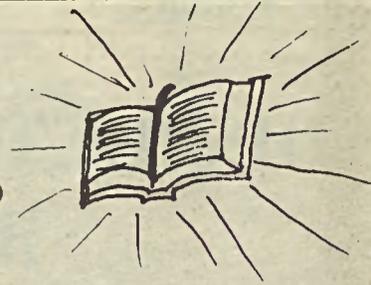


Religion



The Biblical Sex Ethic

R . C . S P R O U L



R. C. Sproul

The Theological Dictionary of the New Testament calls this a "moral catechism," which cites the three chief sins as idolatry, murder and fornication. In the writings of Paul, there is a clear incompatibility between fornication and the kingdom of God. (See, for example, Romans 1:10ff; I Corinthians 6:9,19; 10:1-13;

II Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:5; and I Thessalonians 4:1-5.)

Revelation 9:21 lists sexual indulgence as one of the leading pagan sins to which men will cling in the last days despite all the divine judgments against them. In our recent Ligonier survey of guilt, the

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Christian Corner

By HEATHER EDWARDS
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James 1:6-7

"But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavers is like a wave in the sea, driven with wind and tossed. For let no man think he will receive anything from God."

Don't be a wishy-washy Christian! Trust and believe

in God with faith. If we become weak and wishy-washy, Satan will destroy us like the wind does the waves during a storm in the sea; tossed and turned from the right direction. Have faith in God! He controls the wind! Like it's been said "faith isn't faith until it's all you're hanging on to!"

"The New Testament is characterized by an unconditional repudiation of all extra-marital and unnatural intercourse. In this respect it follows to a large degree the judgment of Old Testament and Israelite preaching and transcends the legalistic practice of later Judaism, which is shown to be inadequate by the Word of Jesus. Jesus can and does effect this radicalizing because the Gospel as saving forgiveness

manifests the the divine dynamic in this age. A further result of this is a basically new attitude to woman. She is no longer man's chattel but a partner of equal dignity before man and God." (Hauck/Schulz, "porneia," Theological Dictionary of the New Testament).

What is noteworthy about this paragraph is its source. It comes from higher critical scholars in the most comprehensive

lexicographical tool available for contemporary biblical research. The scholars who produced this work are not known for their commitment to biblical orthodoxy.

They are neither conservatives in theology or in ethics. Yet they have distinguished themselves for precision in detail and accuracy in the setting forth of biblical teaching. They may not believe or accept what the Bible teaches on certain matters but they have been scrupulous in giving historical and grammatical definitions to those teachings. The opening sentence of the paragraph jumps out at us. "The New Testament is characterized by an unconditional repudiation of all extra-marital and unnatural intercourse." While many church groups consider the propriety of homosexuality and write position papers accepting certain types of pre- and extra-marital intercourse, they do so against a clear biblical mandate that disallows such practices. People may debate the authority of the Bible on these issues, but there is no legitimate debate about the biblical message on these issues.

With respect to premarital, extra-marital and unnatural sexual practices, the Bible says "NO," and says it emphatically.

In Acts 15, minimal requirements are set forth for the Christian community, including the prohibition of fornication.

Radical ?

By JEFF KUHN
Staff Writer

"This is how we know that we are in Him: whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did. (I John 2:5b,6)" How should a Christian live? According to the passage above, we must live the way Jesus lived while He was on earth. That is a pretty radical lifestyle for today's Christian. Jesus hung out with the thieves and prostitutes, the unloved and unwanted. Today it seems that Christians tend to associate only with other Christians. I see myself doing the same thing. What would Jesus do if He came to Montreat today? Where would He go? Who would be His closest friends? Very frankly, Christians, we are not doing what we are supposed to. We need to get back to the basics. I see two things that are necessary which would

radically transform our campus. First, we need to spend time in the Bible and in prayer. How are we to know what Jesus would do if we do not know Him personally. Spend time asking God to show you who He is? He will let you know. It is the deepest desire of his heart. Secondly, ask yourself this question, "If Jesus were in my shoes, what would He do?" Make a list of what His priorities would be. Ask Him to show you what He would do. Who He would befriend? If ten Christians on this campus would continuously ask themselves that question, and then do what Jesus would do, Montreat would never be the same. It's tough, but remember that all things are possible through Christ. Ask Him to carry you through, giving you the guts that it takes to live a radical life. Through Him, we can change the world.