

# THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

August 12

2018

## Flee Sexual Immorality

In 1 Corinthians 6:18, Paul instructed the Corinthians to, “Flee sexual immorality.” You see, throughout the centuries sexual immorality has been a problem, and unfortunately our society today is likewise plagued by sexual immorality. For instance, many of our teenagers today are actively engaged in pre-marital sex (i.e. fornication), many so-called couples today are choosing to shack-up together, have sexual relations (i.e. fornicate), and forgo marriage, many today are also happily practicing homosexuality, and sadly there are many marriages today that are being destroyed because of adultery (i.e. fornication with someone besides the marriage partner).

So, you see, sexual immorality is very prevalent in our society, and is sadly often overlooked by many. However, it is extremely important that we all understand the dangers of sexual immorality. For, we must acknowledge the fact that sexual immorality is sin (1 Corinthians 6:18), no if’s, and’s, or but’s about it. We must understand that sin will separate one from God (Isaiah 59:2), we must know that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23), and because of that, if one is sexually immoral and they do not repent (i.e. turn from their wickedness), they will be among those who shall someday have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone (Revelation 21:8).

Now, my friends, that is serious. So, with those vivid and

sobering thoughts in mind, let’s all be one who takes heed to the warning given by the inspired apostle Paul, “*Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God*” (1 Corinthians 6:9-10). Ladies and gentlemen, God’s all-inspired word makes it perfectly clear to us that those who are guilty of sexual immorality (i.e. fornicators, adulterers, homosexuals, sodomites) will not be among those who will inherit heaven.

So, knowing that, my friends, we need to be a people who abstain from sexual immorality (1 Thessalonians 4:3), we need to frequently warn others about the dangers of sexual immorality (Proverbs 5:1-23; Galatians 5:19-21), and we must never be one who approves of those who practice sexual immorality. For, as Paul informed, not only are those who practice sexual immorality deserving of death, but also those who approve of those who practice it are deserving of death (Romans 1:28-32). Therefore, let’s all be one who not only disapproves of sexual immorality, but let’s also be one who flees and abstains from sexual immorality. ✍ Brad Phillips



## LAUGHING AT SIN

*"Did you hear the one about the drunk who ...?"* So begins so many of the jokes that keep Americans laughing. Such is not only the case concerning drunkenness but it is also true of many other evils. We have come to treat such sins as just one big joke. Some time ago I heard someone say that we are *"laughing our way right into hell."*

The most popular TV shows seem to be the ones that can make the most people laugh at the most immoral behavior. Immorality either becomes the accepted way of life or is to be laughed at. Such an attitude tends to cause everyone, even those who would not engage in such activities, to conclude that such behavior is not really all that bad.

As long as we have this attitude toward sin we will never realize just how much God loves us. God so loved us that He gave His only Son to die for our sins (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8). However, if sin is just one big joke and is of little consequence then such a sacrifice does not really amount to very much. But this is a great sacrifice and is a show of great love! This should make us realize how horrible sin really is. I am convinced that when we come to this realization we will not treat sin so lightly and will not be so quick to laugh at it. Instead, we will be made to mourn as we realize that sin stands between us and our God and that fellowship with Him cannot be had until sin is removed. I am also persuaded that this is the kind of mourning Jesus had in mind when He said, *"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted"* (Matt. 5:4). Such sorrow will lead us to repentance (2 Cor. 7:9-11).

Those of us who are members of the body of Christ have no problem seeing that others treat sin lightly and even laugh at it, however, is it possible that we may also be guilty of such at times?

If we preach the word as God commands it will sometimes be necessary to speak out against sin and even rebuke those who are guilty of such. Personally, I do not find this to be a very enjoyable task, but to obey God it must be done at times. Upon preaching such sermons I have had individuals (often those guilty of the sins discussed) come out and say, *"Boy, you sure got on us today,"* or, *"You sure stepped on my toes this morning."* These openly admit that they are guilty and that they *"needed that."* However, there seems to be no remorse or sorrow at all on their part. They can laugh and treat the condemnation of their sin as just one big joke. If they had the right attitude toward such preaching they would be moved to sorrow for their sins and would repent of them. Yes, they will be thankful for the preaching of truth that brings about such sorrow, but they will not laugh and make a joke out of such preaching.

Also, I hear members commenting about their conduct before becoming a Christian in ways that seem to indicate an improper attitude toward their past sins. Some will speak of their past lives and

the sins they committed with what seems to be a sense of pride. *"I was really a rounder in my time."* *"There wasn't anything that I didn't do."* It seems as though it gives them a sense of joy to brag about how bad they used to be. I know that we all have been guilty of sin. If this were not the case we would not need salvation in Christ. However, as we reflect back on those sins we should do so with thanksgiving for the love and mercy of God and with shame for the acts we committed. Paul called himself the *"chief"* of sinners (1 Tim. 1:15), but this was done to emphasize the great mercy that had been extended to him (v. 16) and not to brag about being worse than anyone else.

In the midst of a society that laughs at and condones sin of every kind let us not be so influenced by such that we become guilty of doing the same. We need to be aware of the danger of such influence. It is possible to be surrounded by sin and wickedness so much that we soon reach the point of not being shocked by or ashamed of such. Paul tells us to *"have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather even reprove them; for the things which are done by them in secret it is a shame even to speak of"* (Eph. 5:11,12). Let us never be guilty of laughing at or making a joke of that which will condemn our soul to everlasting destruction.

*✍ James Hahn*

## Belleville church of Christ

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[www.bellevillechurch.net](http://www.bellevillechurch.net)

### Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study . . . . .	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship . . . . .	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship . . . . .	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study . . . . .	7:00 p.m.

### Evangelist

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