

KEEP YOUR PANTS UP

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Christians are supposed to be role models for the society in all things. Jesus taught that the believer is the light of the world. The world, he said are in darkness, and the believer is the light for all in darkness (referring to the world), therefore the believer must shine for those in darkness to see the light and come out of it to the light. This is the responsibility that the church has from the Savior of the world. But, it is unfortunate that many Christians today do not shine as light, rather, they are living as though they are in darkness while claiming to be in the light. The man in the dark is expected to locate the light and use it to come out of darkness and not the man who has seen the light and is in the light going back to darkness to stay. That is exactly what happens when a Christian instead of living as a Christian begins to live as an unbeliever.

Sin is unnatural with a believer, but natural with a sinner (unbeliever). For a Christian therefore to continue in sin, is to go back to darkness and live. Such a person cannot claim to be a Christian anymore for there is no difference between him and the sinner who has not accepted Christ into his life as Lord and Savior. It is absurd for a Christian to claim to be born again and having the righteous nature of Christ in him or her, to be living in immorality. It is absolutely wrong for a Christian to be fornicating while claiming to be a Christian. Today, we have Christians who practice Lesbianism, Anal sex, Oral sex, Masturbation, Fornication and Adultery without guilt and shame. The preoccupation of some is pornography. Their conscience does not prick them. They cannot keep their pants up. They find it difficult to zip up all the time. How can one claim to be a Christian when one is living such a rotten life? What then is the meaning of repentance and being born again if those who claim to have repented and born again are doing such wickedness? Where do you stand today on this subject?

Isa 59:20

20 "The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins," declares the LORD.

NIV

Acts 3:19-20

19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, 20 and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.

NIV

Prov 28:13

13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

KJV

The Christian having repented and accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord is expected to change his lifestyle to reflect the kingdom of Christ that he now belongs to. Keeping your pants up and not letting it come down becomes a great responsibility. It is deception to announce to all that know you that you have become a Christian when you don't want to depart from your old

ways. Some will say repentance is gradual. That is a lie from the pit of hell. It is either you have repented or you have not. And when you have, you can't be thinking of sex before marriage even in courtship time. It is evil to have sex before marriage. It is a great sin to do that. If you do, then you are still a sinner and not saved. Keep your pants up if you are sure you have truly decided to serve Jesus. God who saved you is counting on you to bear his light to the dying world so they can come to his light and be saved. If you fail him, that will be too bad. He has confidence in you that you will represent him well. Why don't you prove that truly you can?

It is unfortunate that many who court or dating as Christians end up sleeping together while they are still speaking in tongues and prophesying. It is a big shame that it is now hard to find sincere brethren who live up to God's expectations before they get married. It is now common to find young couples delivering their first babies five to seven months after wedding. Some almost practically live together before wedding all in the name that they are getting married though they know it is wrong and a disgrace to their church. They can't wait to get married before they start having sex. This same people, not long after they are married will start complaining that their spouse is demanding too much sex as if it is food. What they could not wait for, they are running away from now.

WHY PEOPLE HAVE SEX BEFORE MARRIAGE

1. Belief that they are just like any other person and cannot stay without sex.

The devil is a trickster, and unfortunately, he has tricked a lot of young people to believe that they are human and they should not try to be super human though the bible teaches that the believer is super human in the sense that he has the life and nature of Christ received at the new birth.

John 3:16

16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

NIV

2 Cor 5:17

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

NIV

John 1:12-13

12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God- 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

NIV

So as a result, they don't make effort anymore to resist the temptation to fornicate. They simply join the crowd to do it. It is so bad now that some youths will tell their parents and guardians that they are going to service or vigil meetings while they are going to meet their lovers for their evil acts. You have what it takes to resist the devil and be free from this evil. You are a supernatural being with the life of God and you are well equipped to resist the temptation to immoral

behavior. The life you have received from Jesus guarantees freedom from all forms of sin, sexual sins inclusive.

Rom 6:11-14

11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 13 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. 14 For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

NIV

2. Belief that God will always forgive when we confess our sins.

Another lie the devil seems to have succeeded in sowing into the heart of youths today is the belief that they can always confess their sins to God and he will always forgive them because he is a God of love and does not want to lose them. He makes them believe that God himself made that provision, and that once a son always a son. If you have thought like this in your mind, I want you to read this scripture:

Gal 6:7-8

7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

NIV

This scripture reveal that every man will reap what he has sown and we should not be deceived by the lie that God can be fooled by our so called confession of sins. It is a delusion to believe that God does not know what you have in your mind – that you are not serious about turning from your immoral life. How could you ever think that God in his infinite wisdom will not know the one who truly repents from the one who is just pretending? God knows when a man repents and when he does not. Apostle Paul says, “*God cannot be mocked*”. Therefore, do not be deceived to think you can fool God with your confessions that are without repentance. God knows the difference. Moreover, Paul also wrote to the Ephesian church that Jesus is coming for a church without spot (stain, sin), wrinkle (evil habit which develops with time) and blemish (evil character).

Eph 5:25-27

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

NIV

Jesus wants people who are purging themselves daily to qualify to go with him at his coming. Don't let the devil deceive you again, “A man reaps what he sows”. Keep your pants up. Always remember to zip up.

3. Belief that no one will find out what they are doing.

There is nothing hidden under the sun that shall not be revealed. Jesus taught us to believe that what is done in secret will be brought to the open.

Matt 10:26-27

26 "So do not be afraid of them. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. 27 What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs.

NIV

Matt 6:3-4

4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

NIV

One way or the other, it will be known. If your leaders do not discover what you are doing, God knows and he will definitely reward you. Don't be deceived, you are surrounded and there are eyes watching you.

4. Belief that "as long as we are getting married it doesn't matter, and more so, our parents have given their approval to our marriage."

Until the marriage vow is taking before witnesses in the presence of the Lord, officiated by a minister of the gospel or government approved official, you are not married. Any sexual act before that is sin in the sight of God. It is called fornication. Stay away from it for it will lead you to hell. It can bring a curse on your intended marriage.

Gal 5:18-21

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

NKJV

5. Inability to deal with lust.

Sex is in the mind. Sex is a function of the mind. A man's thoughts create the desire for sex. If you don't think it, you will not have the desire for it. And when there is no desire, there will be no sex act. The same way, lust which is a strong desire to have someone of the opposite sex, play with and probably have sex with the person is formed and groomed in the mind – It is a mind problem. Lust does not just go away; you have to make them go away. An understanding that it is a mind problem narrows the problem down to a manageable size. To get rid of lust:

- a.** Stop feeding your mind with immoral pictures and information from pornographic films, books and lyrics of corrupted songs.
- b.** Watch what you think about people of the opposite sex especially the one that attracts and captivates your attention.

- c. View people of the opposite sex as God's creatures and should be admired as such. Never let sexual desires to rise within.
- d. Cast sexual thoughts coming into your mind down as they rise. Rebuke the devil that is behind it and by deliberate action switch your mind to something else.
- e. Temporarily separate yourself from anyone that lust is building up in your mind for. Separation will help you to overcome as you pray about it.
- f. Give your thoughts daily to God in prayer asking him to sanctify and keep your thoughts clean by the Holy Spirit.
- g. If it becomes difficult for you to overcome, then see your pastor for help and counseling.

6. Concentration on beauty and figure.

Preoccupation with the physical anatomy and facial beauty can create sexual desires that will become difficult to control especially when you find someone that is really attractive to you. It is very dangerous to focus on such during courtship. To do that is to invite the devil to lead you into temptation. Concentrating on physical charms is dangerous. It is like one playing with fire which will eventually burn you as control is lost when both of you are alone. Stop thinking of how wonderful it will be when you make love together in marriage. Stop thinking about how you will do it together. Don't play with such thoughts in your mind. It is dangerous to do so. Such thoughts will make you lose control of yourself when alone with the one you love.

Tit-bits to guide you and help you avoid sexual sin:

- Avoid being alone with your intended spouse or the opposite sex at odd places and times.
- Never allow him or her sit on your lap.
- Avoid kissing and fondling of one another. A peck will lead to mouth to mouth kissing, which will lead to deeper and longer kissing, and then, fondling and then sex. One thing lead to another.
- Decide never to sleep in the house of one you are dating no matter what, even when you are out of town. Let arrangement be made for you where you will sleep when you visit. Keep your testimony.
- Decide that your spouse to be will never see your nakedness until you are married. Never undress or dress up while he or she looks on.
- Be very careful about hugging each other. Do not forget that love exists in your heart for each other and that each time you hug you are transmitting emotional current which affects your body chemistry and stirs strong sexual desires that will take the special grace of God to stop you from having sex. Be careful. Do not think I am being too rigid, I am only trying to help and save you from an act of shame that will mar your testimony and put you in a difficult and disadvantaged position in life. Many have fallen because of this kind of play.

7. The influence of sex movies, books, sexual songs and other forms of pornography.

There is no gainsaying the fact that pornography creates and fuels sexual desires in all that view and give themselves to it. Your mind will always respond to what it has received from the eyes and ears. It will always process and transmit what has been fed it to the appropriate organs of the body and secrete the relevant hormones to fulfill desires. Remember, Input determines output. It is garbage in garbage out. Pornography will make you create sexual desires and make you lust. It

will destroy the defense mechanism God has built in you and make you fall into sexual sins. Avoid it. Destroy such materials if you have them at home. Don't give them away, destroy them. Save yourself and others.

8. Bad company – Refusal to break away from immoral and unbelieving friends.

The call to serve God is a call to leave the world and the people of the world behind and join God's people going in the same direction and worship God together. Failure to abide by this rule will always bring setbacks and struggles which always lead to sins and backslidings.

2 Cor 6:14-18

14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." 17 Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." 18 "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."

NKJV

If you move with the immoral, there discussions and activities will become a temptation for you. But if you move with the righteous minded you will be clean in your thoughts and actions. Bad company corrupts good morals. The risk of failure is more when your close companions are unbelievers especially the immoral. The subject is so serious that Apostle Paul by the Holy Spirit instructed that any believer who is immoral should be avoided and not fellowshiped with. Think about this and do whatever you must do to keep yourself clean.

1 Cor 5:9-11

9 I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people- 10 not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. 11 But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.

NIV

9. Lack of defined restricting principles to guide in relating with people of the opposite sex.

It is true we are not to be legalistic for we are not under the law, but it is important to personally make up your mind to be free from what God condemns and calls sin. It takes discipline to live successfully for God. It will take you to be principled enough to place some restrictions on yourself to keep you from sinning against the one you love and Lord of your life who through his sacrifice opened door for you to be forgiven and saved. If it cost Jesus his life to save you, it will be proper that you make some sacrifice to keep your freedom as a sign of commitment and dedication to God in appreciation of what he did for you. Place some restrictions on yourself on

how to relate with the people of the opposite sex. Decide to abide by the guidelines I have given in this teaching. It will keep you from sin, bless your life and crown you with glory.

10. Temptation through seductive dresses.

Modern day dresses are making many to lust as these dresses reveal so much that sexual desires are aroused in onlookers. These dresses are actually designed by the designers to be seductive and attract attention and appeal for sex. They go by such names as: “Sex appeal”, “Notice me”, “I have got all you need” and “I am all yours”, etc. These seductive, revealing, body hugs and indecent dressing has not only caused so many Christians to battle with lust and led them to immoral behaviors, but is responsible for the increase in rape around the world. Please dress like one who truly knows God and sees himself and herself as a witness for the Lord Jesus Christ.

11. Belief that to be social is to be sexually active.

To be immoral is not to be social. To be sexually active outside of marriage is not being social but being sinful. The world may call it being social, but God calls it sin. Believe what God says and not the world. God is the judge and not your friends and the world. Keep your pants up.

THE DANGER OF HAVING SEX BEFORE MARRIAGE

1. You will be numbered among the immoral and unfaithful.
2. You can contract diseases – VDs and HIV
3. You can get pregnant before marriage.
 - This can stop your education temporarily or permanently.
 - It will bring disgrace and shame to you in your local church family, community where you are known as a Christian and personal family.
 - It will bring discredit to the name of Christ and his church. This will definitely affect the evangelization of your community, especially if you are a worker in your church or a popular Christian.
 - Your Christian testimony will be badly damaged such that you can no longer preach freely and successfully the gospel of Christ. That means you have failed in your responsibility as a witness for Christ.
4. You will attract a curse on your relationship and intention to get married or on your young marriage when you get married which will open the door for things to go wrong.
 - An adversary may be allowed to rise against you and your relationship.
 - Your courtship can be abruptly terminated as a disciplinary measure through some events that the Lord will permit.
 - Your marriage could be burdened with marital problems that will fill your heart with pain and keep you on your knees.
 - It can close your womb if abortion was done to cover up your sexual relationships before marriage.
5. It may lead to your complete backsliding from the faith.
6. It can disqualify you from being with the Lord forever in his kingdom.

CONCLUSION

Do not let the devil through the world tell you what is right and wrong, how you should live and the company to keep. Let God your Maker in whose kingdom you are, tell you. What I have

shared with you is the word and will of God for you and I. Live free from all forms of immoral behavior. Keep your pants up no matter what. Determine in your heart to please God in this matter and in all things and you will be glad you did. Let your mind be renewed by this truth and you will be glad you did. Don't join the crowd. Be different for Jesus. It doesn't matter who in the church is practicing immoral acts, don't do it. Imitate Jesus and follow him the way he has demanded we follow him.

As the light of the world, let us set an example for the world to emulate. Let us prove to them that man can marry without having sex before marriage, and having married can and will remain faithful to the one he or she is married to without cheating.

May the Lord strengthen you to abide by this rule all your single years and beyond in Jesus name.