

Pastor Clifford  
April 18th, 2021

# The Book of Hebrews: Chapter 13c

(Blue text is Hebrews)

## Hebrews 13

**<sup>3</sup>Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. <sup>4</sup>Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.**

When it comes to interpreting the scriptures there are two main methods used:

1. Hermeneutics
2. Exegesis

These are two Greek terms that basically say that we must allow the scriptures to interpret themselves and to allow context to provide clarity. It becomes relevant in the interpretation of this passage in Hebrews.

Persecution was a real tangible factor in the conversion of an individual in the 1<sup>st</sup> century as is today in many parts of the world. There was a real possibility of two outcomes for the new believer:

1. Death
2. Prison

**<sup>3</sup>Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.**

**Matthew 25:35-36** "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, **36** I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me."

**4 Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.**

**Undefiled:** Uncontaminated or set apart.

- The word "undefiled" is used only four times in the New Testament. (**Hebrews 7:26** uses the word to describe Jesus our undefiled High Priest. **James 1:27** uses the word to describe religion.)
- Therefore the marriage bed is to be kept pure unstained and undefiled. Sexual intimacy is to be shared by a married couple alone.
- When God wanted to stress the point of Israel's unfaithfulness He used harlotry to get His point across.
- We are the bride of Christ.

### **Defilement of the marriage bed:**

**1. Fornication:** When two unmarried people engage in sexual intercourse, they are defiling God's good gift of sex. Those who have not vowed themselves to each other in a binding lifetime union have no right to exploit the culmination of such a vow. Sex was designed to be the final act of consecration when a couple pledge their lives to each other in a sacred covenant. All forms of sexuality outside a marriage union are bringing dishonor to the honorable institution of marriage.

**Acts 21:25** "As touching the Gentiles which believe, we have written and concluded that they observe no such thing, save only that they keep themselves from things offered to idols, and from blood, and from strangled, and from fornication."

**2. Adultery:** When one or both parties in a sexual union are married to someone else, God calls their sexual acts adultery. Adultery was punishable by death under God's Old Covenant with Israel (Deuteronomy 22:2).

Even though we no longer live under that covenant, adultery is still high on God's list of moral evils and is always named as a sin that keeps unrepentant offenders from inheriting the kingdom of God.

**Galatians 5:19** "Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,..."

**Matthew 5:27-28** "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' **28** But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

**3. Homosexuality:** Another defilement of the marriage bed is the perversion of men having sex with men or women with women. Despite our world's current embrace of homosexual practice, this act has never been and will never be sanctioned or blessed by God. Homosexuality is a distortion of God's gift of physical unity between husband and wife and is the only sexual activity labeled an abomination (Leviticus 20:13). The prohibition against homosexuality carries right into the New Covenant, as it is listed with those sins that keep the unrepentant out of the kingdom of God.

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11** "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, **10** nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers,

nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. **11** And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

**4. Prostitution:** Proverbs 7 gives a detailed look at the destruction that comes upon a young man who allows himself to be seduced by a harlot:

**Proverbs 7:1-23** "My son, keep my words  
and treasure up my commandments with you;  
**2** keep my commandments and live;  
keep my teaching as the apple of your eye;  
**3** bind them on your fingers;  
write them on the tablet of your heart.  
**4** Say to wisdom, "You are my sister,"  
and call insight your intimate friend,  
**5** to keep you from the forbidden woman,  
from the adulteress with her smooth words.  
**6** For at the window of my house  
I have looked out through my lattice,  
**7** and I have seen among the simple,  
I have perceived among the youths,  
a young man lacking sense,  
**8** passing along the street near her corner,  
taking the road to her house  
**9** in the twilight, in the evening,  
at the time of night and darkness.  
**10** And behold, the woman meets him,  
dressed as a prostitute, wily of heart.  
**11** She is loud and wayward;  
her feet do not stay at home;  
**12** now in the street, now in the market,  
and at every corner she lies in wait.  
**13** She seizes him and kisses him,  
and with bold face she says to him,

- 14 "I had to offer sacrifices,  
and today I have paid my vows;  
15 so now I have come out to meet you,  
to seek you eagerly, and I have found you.  
16 I have spread my couch with coverings,  
colored linens from Egyptian linen;  
17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh,  
aloes, and cinnamon.  
18 Come, let us take our fill of love till morning;  
let us delight ourselves with love.  
19 For my husband is not at home;  
he has gone on a long journey;  
20 he took a bag of money with him;  
at full moon he will come home."  
21 With much seductive speech she persuades him;  
with her smooth talk she compels him.  
22 All at once he follows her,  
as an ox goes to the slaughter,  
or as a stag is caught fast  
23 till an arrow pierces its liver;  
as a bird rushes into a snare;  
he does not know that it will cost him his life."

The sin of harlotry is often used as a metaphor for unfaithful Israel ([Hosea 4:15](#); [Jeremiah 3:8](#); [Judges 8:33](#)). Christians are warned to avoid such immorality because of the sacredness of the marriage bed.

**5. Pornography:** Using pornography for sexual gratification is a more modern way to defile the marriage bed. Pornographic books, videos, sexting, and the use of other sexually explicit materials also defile the sanctity of the sexual union between a man and wife. Porn has the effect of bringing strangers into the bedroom, even if only through the eyes. Jesus warned that lust associated with *looking* at a woman is equivalent to adultery before God ([Matthew 5:28](#)). Pornography has elevated sexual

lust to an art form, but it is still corrupting to the heart and a sinful defiling of the sexual act.

God created human beings to be pure in body and spirit. Sexual union between a husband and wife was a part of that purity.

**Genesis 2:24** "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."

## **There is HOPE**

Adam and Eve sinned, sexuality was tainted along with everything else. Jesus purchased the power to reclaim that purity through His sacrificial death on the cross. No sin, including sexual immorality, is too great for the power of that atoning death and resurrection to pardon.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

Even though we may have defiled the marriage bed in many ways, God can restore sexual purity and holiness when we repent and commit our lives to following Him.

**Psalms 51:7** "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow."

**1 John 1:7** "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."