

Fornication

by Michael Pickford

Hello dear friends. I'm Mike Pickford, preacher for the Southside church of Christ in Smyrna, TN, and this is your Moment of Truth.

The word "Fornication" has become somewhat archaic in the English language. Newer versions translate the Greek word as "Sexual Immorality" instead of "fornication." Jesus stated that it is the only just cause for divorce. "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery;" (Matthew 19:9). The Greek word for "Sexual immorality" or "Fornication" in this verse is *porneia*. Greek scholars define this word as "...illicit sexual intercourse in general" (Thayer). Since the mid to late 1970's an average of half of all marriages in this country ends in divorce. This is tragic, and the fact is, a large number of these divorces did not occur because of "sexual immorality" on the part of their partners. Spouses are putting away their spouses for such trivial reasons; Children are devastated by the divorce of their parents, friends are hurt, families are disappointed, couples are affected, society suffers, and most of all, God says, "He hates divorce" (Malachi 2:16). Please be faithful until death.

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