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Guard Every Step

by Andy Sochor

Moses was God's faithful servant who led the Israelites out of Egypt. He dealt with opposition from Pharaoh, grumbling by the people, and difficulties of the journey.

Yet Moses was not perfect. When God told him to "speak to the rock...that it may yield its water" for the congregation (Numbers 20:8), Moses instead struck the rock with his rod and took credit for providing water for them (Numbers 20:9-11).

Because of this misstep, God told Moses that he would not bring the Israelites into the promised land (Numbers 20:12). We might think this was unfair. Surely we can sympathize with Moses as he had to deal with all of the stress and frustration of leading the Israelites through the wilderness. But none of that changed God's decision.

We need to be careful about what we do. We could bring irreparable harm by some misdeed. In a moment of weakness, we could do something that has long-reaching negative consequences –for ourselves and others. Because of this, we must always be on the alert.

So guard every step. The devil is always looking for an opportunity to lead us into sin (1 Peter 5:8). We don't need to give him one. Let us always be careful to do God's will in all things.

Marriage is to be held in honor among all...

Will Birdsong

"Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge." - Hebrews 13:4 (NKJV)

While we emphasize the importance and sanctity of marriage, it is also crucial to acknowledge the dangers and consequences of engaging in marital behaviors outside of wedlock. In a world that often promotes a casual and carefree approach to relationships, God's Word reminds us of the significance of sexual purity and the sacredness of the marriage covenant.

Engaging in sexual relations outside of marriage, commonly referred to as fornication, is explicitly addressed in Scripture as behavior that is contrary to God's design for human relationships. The Apostle Paul urges believers to flee from sexual immorality, stating in 1 Corinthians 6:18 (NKJV), "Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body."

Fornication, whether in the form of premarital relations or extramarital affairs, carries profound spiritual, emotional, and physical consequences. It undermines the trust, commitment, and intimacy that are meant to be uniquely shared within the boundaries of marriage. Furthermore, it can lead to broken hearts, shattered relationships, guilt, shame, and the potential for unintended pregnancies or sexually transmitted diseases.

God's intention for sexual intimacy is beautifully expressed within the context of marriage, as seen in 1 Corinthians 7:2-5 (NKJV): "Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband." Here, we see that the marital relationship provides the proper context for the expression of sexual love and intimacy.

As followers of Christ, we are called to live lives that are pleasing to God, upholding His standards of holiness and purity. The apostle Paul admonishes us in 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 (NKJV): "For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God."

In our pursuit of godly relationships, we must exercise wisdom, self-control, and a commitment to honoring the sacredness of the marriage covenant. We should strive to encourage one another to live lives that are pleasing to God, seeking His guidance and strength to resist the temptations that surround us.

Let us be a community that extends grace and support to those who may have experienced the pain and consequences of sexual sin, offering them the love and forgiveness that Christ offers us. By upholding the sanctity of marriage and promoting sexual purity, we can bear witness to the transformative power of Christ's love and the beauty of His design for human relationships.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." - Psalm 51:10 (NKJV)

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What Men Have Done to Hell

- by Bill Crews

- Atheists, skeptics and modernists have eradicated it by their "wonderful" powers of "reason".
- "Christian Scientists" have attributed it to improper thinking, the figment of bad imagination, or "malicious animal magnetism".
- Universalists have removed the need of fearing it since they teach that all will be saved anyway.
- Unitarians and others have decided that the only real heaven or hell are encountered by men in this life by pleasant or unpleasant experiences.
- "Jehovah's Witnesses" have reduced it to annihilation, eternal non-existence rather than eternal punishment.
- Many Protestant denominations have taken away any concern about being lost from millions by their doctrine of "once saved, always saved".
- Catholicism has assured millions that they will not go there because of her sacraments and rituals, and has caused many to be more concerned about an imaginary "purgatory".
- Many have sought to remove the eternal duration and the awful torment of hell by their own concept of God's love.

But what the Bible says about hell remains true. You may read about it in: Matthew 18.8-9; 25.41,46; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; Revelation 14.10-11; 20:10, 15; 21.8.