

enough to make a distinction from rape, a violent compulsory ~~act~~ intercourse, and polygamy, the publicly legalized plural marriage. It would include association with harlots and/or promiscuous persons. Removed from the adultery charge would be consenting unmarried persons and occasions of incest and abuse. These are wicked sins of other classification. With the English word there is little room for ambiguity or doubt.

Similarity with the Hebrew term. Apart from its use in the sense of spiritual adultery (of which we shall speak later) it is always in the context of a man (occasionally a woman) in a sexual relationship with someone other than the married partner. This is adultery and what the law explicitly prohibits is any sort of extra marital sexual enterprise.

#### The Sexual Sins: Brief Consideration

Of all the sins defined and outlawed in the Scripture none are more explicitly dealt with than the sexual sins. Line for line they are given more space and instruction than any other area of weakness. The reasons for this are at least threefold:

- 1) The sexual sins confound the order and creative plan of life. They defy the method of the Creator and make one of the creative processes an object of will worship.
- 2) They debase life and people since in the sexual sins there is always a victimization of the innocent. The innocent, incidentally, may not be involved in the particular affair, but they are harmed in the consequences it brings to them.
- 3) They corrupt the relationship of the Lord and His people in principle. The sexual sins are immediately corruptive of the picture of God and His own and are so in a way that is almost without remedy.