

# “SEX IN THE CITY”

## The Mystery of Fidelity

### ADVANCED NOTES

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### TEXT: ACTS 15

They wrote this *letter* by them:

The apostles, the elders, and the brethren,  
To the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia:  
Greetings.

Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, "*You must* be circumcised and keep the law"--to whom we gave no *such* commandment-- it seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who will also report the same things by word of mouth.

For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: that you **abstain from things offered to idols**, from blood, from things strangled, and **from sexual immorality**.

If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.

**Acts 15:23-29 (NKJV)**

### WARNINGS AGAINST SEXUAL SIN

#### Early Church

Acts 15 – a letter was sent from James and the apostles in Jerusalem warning the Gentile believers to abstain from idolatry and sexual immorality

#### Apostle's Doctrine

Every book of the New Testament (except Philemon), including all the letters from the apostles, addresses the subject of immorality and warns believers to abstain from it

## WHY IS THIS SO IMPORTANT TO GOD?

The Bible speaks much about the mysteries of God. This issue of sexual immorality is important to God because of what it represents. Every believer should discern the real meaning behind marriage and purity and how it relates to a true love for God. This is a mystery but God's Word reveals the true meaning.

**Strong's #3466 Greek word: mystery- musterion-** a hidden or secret thing, not obvious to the understanding; a hidden purpose or counsel

But we speak the **wisdom of God in a mystery**, the hidden *wisdom* which God ordained before the ages for our glory,

**1 Corinthians 2:7 (NKJV)**

To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what *is* the **fellowship of the mystery**, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the **manifold wisdom** of God might be made known **by the church** to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*, according to the **eternal purpose** which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,

**Ephesians 3:8-11 (NKJV)**

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints-- and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to **make known the mystery of the gospel**... that I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

**Ephesians 6:18-20 (NKJV)**

**the mystery which has been hidden from ages** and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of **this mystery** among the Gentiles: **which is Christ in you**, the hope of glory.

**Colossians 1:26-27 (NKJV)**

Likewise deacons *must be* reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding **the mystery of the faith** with a pure conscience.

**1 Timothy 3:8-9 (NKJV)**

For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. *"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."* **This is a great mystery**, but I speak concerning Christ

and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects *her* husband.

**Ephesians 5:30-33 (NKJV)**

So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast *which was* full of names of blasphemy...having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the **filthiness of her fornication**. And on her forehead a name *was* written: **MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH**. I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement. But the angel said to me, "Why did you marvel? I will tell you **the mystery of the woman**

**Revelation 17:3-7 (NKJV)**

And there **a woman** met him, *With the attire of a harlot*, and a crafty heart....Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, Do not stray into her paths; For she has cast down many wounded, And all who were slain by her were strong *men*. Her house *is* the **way to hell**, Descending to the chambers of **death**.

**Proverbs 7:10, 25-27 (NKJV)**

The following chart visualizes the comparison between earthly marriage and sexual intimacy and our heavenly relationship with God.

## The Mystery of Fidelity

Natural Marriage	Spiritual Relationship
Marriage- <i>Union with a Human</i>	Salvation- <i>Union with God</i>
Husband	Christ
Wife	Church
Love for each other and intimacy	Love for God and worship
Physical body to be kept for each other alone	Physical body to be kept for the will of God and serving the Lord
Union with another person= adultery	Worship of another god= Idolatry
Breaks trust	Violates faith
Unfaithfulness to spouse	Unfaithfulness to God
Seed affected- natural children hurt	Seed affected- spiritual children and church hurt
Broken union- Children unborn, no fruit	Broken union- People not saved, no fruit

Spirit of Immorality	Spirit of harlotry
Result natural death	Result spiritual death

There is a wicked and unclean spirit- a principality and power that rules in the earth today. It is the spirit of harlotry, the mother of all harlots. It is the spirit of the strange woman that Solomon speaks of in the Book of Proverbs. It is the demonic force behind all sexual perversion. And it is the idol that sits on a throne attempting to steal worship away from God Almighty.

The myriad of warnings against sexual immorality is the voice of God crying out to His children attempting to shield them and protect them from this wicked idolatry and the worship of other gods. For if a person is unfaithful to their spouse, they will also be unfaithful to their God.

How important it is for believers today to hear the Word of the Lord and recognize the seriousness of keeping ourselves holy- not only for one another or for our spouses, but also for the Lord.

May God give us all divine insight and discernment into the great and mysterious purposes of God for our lives.

To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what *is* the **fellowship of the mystery**, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,

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