

1. Tonight we will continue our study of the Book of Colossians at verse five of chapter three by way of the Doctrine of the Phallic Cult. Last week when time expired, we were studying Paul's many imperatives concerning the detestable practices of phallic reversionism practiced in the idolatrous temples of Apollo and Aphrodite.
2. Before we resume our exegesis, you may want to take advantage of God's protocol for fellowship by silently naming your sins to God as we pray.
3. Now that the decks have been cleared for action, let's look at an expanded translation of Col 3:1-5; then we will continue our study of the phallic cult.

### **Expanded Translation**

**Col 3:1 Since as a believer you have been raised together with Christ, you must seek after the heavenly things, which are above where Christ sits at the right side of God the Father in the place of honor;**

**Col 3:2 you must keep on thinking divine viewpoint rather than human viewpoint; your perspective must always be directed toward things on high and not on earthy things.**

**Col 3:3 For you see, you have died with Christ with reference to sin; your life is now hidden in Him;**

**Col 3:4 when Christ, who is the source of our life, shall appear at His Second Advent, we also shall appear with Him in His glory.**

**Col 3:5 Therefore we must die, or put to death, the facets of our old sin natures, such facets, will, if we let them, dominate our thoughts and actions in time; we can only put to death such facets by the use of the two power options. In our context, the specific facets to be destroyed are: illicit sex, be it fornication or adultery, homosexuality and/or bestiality, sexual lust or abnormal passion, licentious desires and the use of illicit sexual lust as part of ones frantic search for happiness. The nature of which can certainly lead to demon possession/control.**

### **Doctrine of the Phallic Cult**

1. The best attested activity of the Phallic Cult was that of the Canaanites who lived in the promised land before Israel's conquest. The Ras Shamra Tablets found at Ugarit document this horrific phenomena. Ugarit was an ancient city on the coast of Syria.

#### 1.1 The Ras Shamra Tablets

1.1.1 The city of Ugarit was an ancient seaport located seven miles north of modern Latakia in Syria. It was the closest mainland city to Cyprus. The Bible student's interest in Ras Shamra is primarily a result of the Canaanite mythological texts uncovered there.



1.1.2 Now for the first time scholars know Canaanite religion, through its own literature. The despicable practices of the Canaanites have long been known through such things as temples and cult objects found in various ancient digs. These discoveries, along with the many descriptions of the religious practices outlined in the Bible, have well established the nexus between religion, sexual indulgences and idolatry practiced by the early inhabitants in the promised land.

1.1.3 The Canaanite literature only strengthens the archaeological evidence that the Canaanites had the most depraved of all ancient religions. El was formerly the head of the Canaanite pantheon, but he was replaced by the young, dynamic Baal, a storm-god similar to Zeus but more depraved.

1.1.4 There were three major goddesses, Ashtaroth, Anath and Asherah. The last is best known in Scripture as the goddess in the episode of Elijah on Mount Carmel (1Ki 18:19). The other goddesses shared the power of war, love, and fertility.

1Ki 18:19 Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."

1Ki 18:20 So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel.

1Ki 18:21 Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him." But the people said nothing.

1.1.5 These tablets were discovered during an early excavation in the library of the official building where the chief priest had lived. It was situated on the highest part of the mound between two Canaanite temples, one dedicated to the worship of Baal and the other to that of Dagon, the fish god.

1.1.6 As has been concluded by many scholars: "The Ras Shamra Tablets document the problems pervading the promised land and thus the reason God gave Moses so many caveats concerning the temptations they would find in the land."

1.2 The Mosaic law urged Israel to avoid the many lewd practices pervading the promised land into which they would enter. The Tablets and the Bible mention child sacrifice as a common practice in the groves where sexual perversion was part of worship. Lev 18:3-22 and 20:2-5

2. In Deu 12:29-31 the Phallic Cult is said to include all sorts of detestable things such as fornication, homosexuality, bestiality, and even incest in conjunction with child sacrifice.

3. The people of Israel were to destroy all forms of this idolatry but they did not. Deu 12:1-3

4. Behind all this Canaanitish "reverence" is a system of demonic worship; worship practices which had spread to all the known world. The gods of the Phoenicians, Greeks and Romans were, in the main, sex athletes.

5. Pentecost in his book Things to Come quotes Ironside on this subject as it related to the Babylonian whore church of the Tribulation, this church is also called Jezebel. These we studied last week.

6. **Phallic Reversionism** is not so uncommon even among believers today. This form of reversionism includes fornication, adultery and even the abnormal or perverse sexual activities. Phallic reversionism attacks the institution of marriage.

7. The City of Corinth was a licentious place and thus a temptation to many of the citizens of the city. Many Christians came from the idolatrous temples where phallic reversionism ran wild. Paul therefore wrote often and in detail about the evils of sexual reversionism.



2Co 12:21 And lest, when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed.

8. Corinth was a sailor's delight and had something for every one. It was located on an isthmus connecting Greece proper with Achaia or the Peloponnesos as it is known today.

8.1 Corinth was in the middle of the Isthmus and it was where people partied while awaiting transfer of their ship's baggage. The stop was made at Corinth to avoid the bad seas and winds of the Cape of Malaea. Sexual indulgence, combined with idolatry, was one of the "attractions of Corinth."

9. Sex outside of marriage is a temptation which must be guarded against. Christ has declared the right man and right woman to be of one flesh. He did not say a happily married couple. Paul did not even confine the responsibility of chastity to married couples.

9.1 The truth is that fleshly fornication or adultery is a unique sin to the extent that it is the only sin where we are said to be offensive to the body which is the Temple of the Lord.

9.2 Whether we like it or not, the relationship with the right man and right woman is very special and so should our attitude be. Attitudes come from doctrine cycled in the soul, so again, ignorance of doctrine is a major issue and a perpetual problem as long as

we are in time.

9.3 From the Scripture we can conclude that when a man and a woman lie with one another there is a transcendental relationship established which must be "eternally enjoyed or eternally endured." Transcendental as used here: "that surpassing all others; superior and beyond common thought or experience."

9.3.1 Satan attacks both man and woman with a special vigor trying to convince the both that service in marriage is rigorous and bound with duty devoid of pleasure.

9.4 Recall the special relationship between man and woman in the garden when Satan made his original advance and set mankind in full scale retreat.

9.5 The authority of the man over the woman was very key in the assault and thus has a special role in the resolution of the angelic conflict. God took the souls of man and woman which before the creation of their bodies were one and He placed them in two separate bodies and then said I will deal with the both of you as one.

9.6 Sexual infidelity then be it fornication or adultery robs God of what is rightfully His. The plan and story of the right man and the right woman began early. By reason of the believer's union with Christ, fornication robs the Lord of that which is his.

1Co 6:15 Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid.

1Co 6:18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

9.7 Flee is a present tense of habitual action from the verb *Feugo*; thus it is better, "Make it your habit to flee." Someone has said, "While it is often claimed that there is safety in numbers, there are times when there is more safety in exodus!" Joseph's experience comes to mind. Gen 39:1-12

9.8 A cheap substitute of a perfect plan is a union with the harlot i.e. someone other than the right woman.

9.9 Because Satan has a way with words; he loves to use marriage and family as that onerous imposition imposed on both the "noble man and woman". Many people no doubt stay together from their distorted sense of nobility rather than start the fix which for the woman means obedience and for the man virtue love toward the woman.

9.10 Men are particularly vulnerable in the area of love and marriage because of their sensual appetites and psychological desire to own and dominate and yet once married, the two begin to point at the other declaring to themselves "This couldn't be God's will."

9.10.1 C. S. Lewis in his book The Screwtape Letters describes in parody Satan's perspective of love and marriage.

"My dear Wormwood ... you complain that my last letter does not make it clear whether I regard *being in love* as a desirable state for a human or not ... leave them to discuss whether "love" or patriotism, or celibacy or education ... are good or bad. Can't you see there is no answer? Nothing matters at all ... thus it may be quite good for your patient to decide that "love" is good or bad ... If he is an emotional and gullible man feed him on minor poets and fifth rate novels ... until you have made him feel that love is ... intrinsically meritorious and this will result in your being able to steer him into a useful marriage ... marriage although the Enemy's invention has its uses. Like most of the other things which humans are excited about, such as health and sickness, age and youth, or war and peace, it is ... from the point of view of the spiritual life ... mainly raw material."

1Co 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

9.11 The final reason given in verse 1Co 6:20 is "the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit." The body of the individual believer is the Spirit's temple. How incongruous it is to hear our Pentecostal friends, praying for the coming of the Spirit!

1Co 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

1Co 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, "*and in your spirit*", *which are God's*.

9.12 Verse 20 introduces the reason believers are not their own. The Spirit occupies that which God has obtained by purchase. One can demonstrate ownership by purchase and by occupancy. Both of these things God has done; hence Christians are not their own, but His own.

Joh 13:1 Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

9.12.1 He also prayed for His own.

Joh 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

Joh 17:4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

Joh 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

Joh 17:6 I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.

Joh 17:7 Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee.

Joh 17:8 For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have

received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.

Joh 17:9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.

9.12.2 The word "bought or purchase" in verse 20 is a punctilious aorist; the action of the purchase took place punctiliously on the Cross. It took place at Golgotha, where the price was paid. The figure is that of sacral manumission, whereby a slave, by paying the price of his freedom into the temple treasury, was regarded thereafter as the slave of god and no longer the slave of his earthly master.

9.12.3 "Therefore glorify" is a command, and it is done by eliminating the defiling things, such as fornication; the believer is urged to display the One who had come to dwell within. The terrible price of the priceless blood demands nothing less than this.

1Pe 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;  
1Pe 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

9.13 To eliminate such things as fornication cannot be done in the flesh. The two power options must be used to avoid this insidious, though obvious, sin which has inverted ramifications.

9.14 You and I, as believers, can do anything an unbeliever can do and Satan loves it when we do. Phallic reversionism harms not only the body but also the temple of God, the soul of man; the soul being located in our mind which is part of our body.

9.15 Scar tissue from fornication or adultery can make recovery difficult. There is something about infidelity which makes recovery of a relationship virtually impossible. Under grace all things, however, are possible.

Eph 4:19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

Eph 4:20 But ye have not so learned Christ;

Eph 5:5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

10. In the Mosaic Law a wife, who has had relations with another man after divorce or separation, is no longer a candidate for reconciliation.

Deu 24:1 When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favor in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of **divorcement**, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house.  
Deu 24:2 And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife.

Deu 24:3 And if the latter husband hate her, and write her a bill of divorcement, and giveth it in her hand, and sendeth her out of his house; or if the latter husband die, which took her to be his wife;

Deu 24:4 **Her former husband, which sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after that she is defiled;** for that is abomination before the LORD: and thou shalt not cause the land to sin, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.

11. And now for a very serious admonition of what will happen to those who do not put to death these sexual deviations. In a nation which glorifies adultery and excuses both fornication and homosexuality as something that cannot be resisted, we can only ask, "How long will God let us continue as a client nation?"

End Lesson Taught 5-13-09