

*The  
Naughty  
Nun*

" Welcome to "



\*PG-16 [www.NaughtyNun.com](http://www.NaughtyNun.com) PG-16\*

## " The Naughty Nun "

I suppose I could try and turn the women of the Bible into the equivalent of "Cover-girls" for "Good Housekeeping" - but that would be so very misleading. So what's the truth?

The truth is that the  
*Bible is filled with "Naughty Nuns",*

So let's start by meeting just some  
of the women in Jesus' family tree :

**\*\* WARNING \*\***

**These stories and the pictures displayed in it are rated: PG-16**

The "Naughty Nun" is a "love letter" to my wife, and all the other wonderful women I've ever known before. It is dedicated to my maternal grandmother Maria, whom I never knew, but who's love I do often feel.

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# Jesus' Genealogy



But first, briefly, 1 page of important background information is in order:

**God promised, through the Prophet Ezekiel, that:**

"I will give you a shepherd from the family of my servant King David. All of you, both strong and weak, will have the same shepherd, and he will take good care of you. He will be your leader, and I will be your God. I, the Lord, have spoken."

It is interesting to note that soon After Jesus' ministry on earth, exactly as He had prophesied, the temple with all the records of the Genealogy of the Jews, was destroyed by the Romans. This means that this one very important requirement for authenticating any "would-be Messiah" could never again be met - ever again! Back then, the first thing that Jesus' opponents (the religious leaders of the day) did, was to go to the temple and look to verify that he really was a descendant of King David - which He was. That verification has not been possible now for some 2,000 years - and it never ever can be possible again! Now, I would like to introduce you to just some of Jesus' family members. I have purposely not *cleaned up their images*, though in Mary's case that was not even an issue, since that would be doing to women what *women's magazines* do ... displaying role-models that are impossible to emulate. Believe me, when you read about some of the women in Jesus' family tree, you will realize just how normal you are. Remember, God could have chosen ANY family on earth to be Jesus' family.

Lets start by looking at the most obvious of the women in Jesus' family tree:



# MARY

It is interesting to note that both **Mary**, as documented in Luke, and **Joseph**, as documented in Matthew, were indeed from the family of King David, but obviously it was Mary's genetics that fulfilled this part of the prophecy.

I think you will agree that I have chosen a very fitting artistic image for Mary. She was a virgin, a virtuous woman, genuinely loved her childhood sweetheart Joseph and was engaged to be married to him. Mary is very special - there is no doubt about that!

But, let us not forget that God chose Mary to give birth to Jesus, and also arranged it all in such a way that she fell pregnant **BEFORE** she was

married to Joseph, not after, which back then was a "stoning offense" and even by today's standards this still raises eyebrows. Mary (and ultimately Joseph) simply trusted God in a very dangerous situation which could have so easily led to her death. So, why did God choose to let the Messiah be born in this manner? He is God after all ... He could have easily chosen to let Jesus be born in a less "scandalous" manner. One has to assume that the things proud people like to point out as being "so very wicked" are not quite as important to God as what we think! So, for any of you ladies who fell pregnant out of wedlock, don't panic, God is not going to send you to Hell for that. Your ability to obtain God's Salvation is as good as anyone else's !



## Bath-sheba

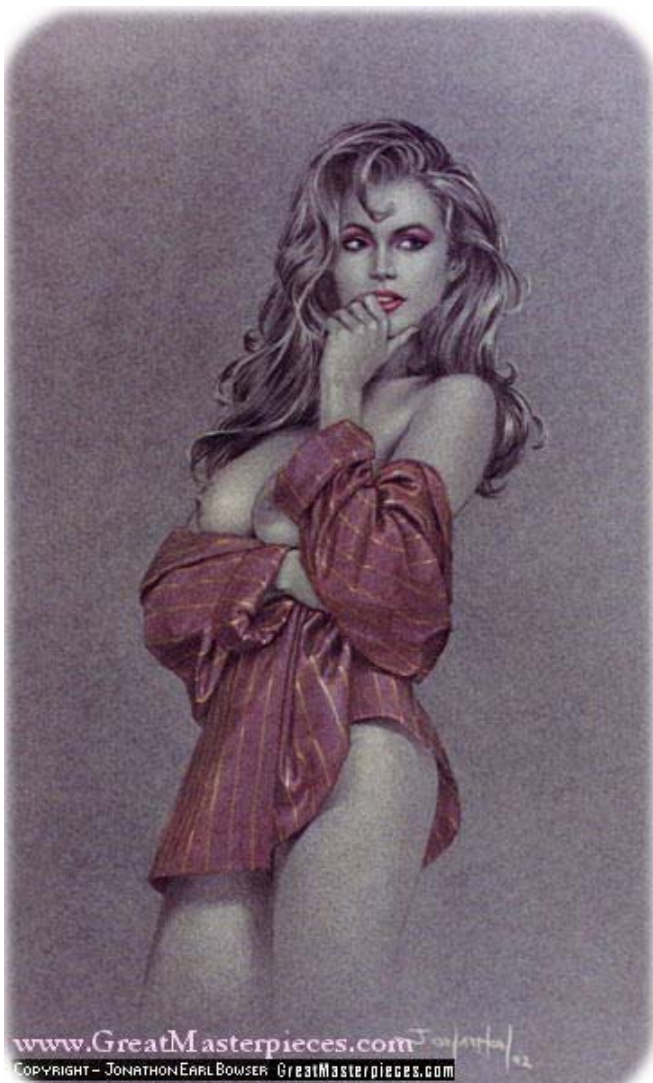
Do you remember that gorgeous seductress Bath-Sheba who took to bathing naked on her rooftop - in clear view of the palace? Now, for those of you who are offended by classical artistic nudity, I'd like to ask ... What do you think King David saw ? You are looking at that scene.

Well, she did succeed in catching King David's eye! David sent for Bath-Sheba and had an affair with her and she fell pregnant with his child. King David then resorted to all kinds of tricks to cover up their affair and eventually settled on the murder of her husband (poor chap) to cover up the fact that he had an affair with Bath-Sheba. They paid a huge price for their affair and the resulting cover-up, but God forgave them (after they repented) and King David ended up marrying Bath-Sheba. Their son, Solomon, then went on to become a truly great king - the most famous of the Jewish Kings, after his father. So, for all you woman out there who have committed Adultery and believe that nothing good can come from your lives, just you remember that David and Bath-Sheba are in Heaven today ... and their offspring went on to be the most famous, powerful and influential people the world has ever seen!

So, any of you ladies ever had an Adulterous affair (or maybe several) ? So you think you are may be headed straight for Hell and that there is no hope for you ? I've actually heard woman say that "there is no hope for them, since they had committed adultery" ... *the good news is that they are wrong*, and it isn't just me saying so ... Jesus was very clear on this issue.

So, have any of you ever stripped naked to catch a guys attention? Perhaps you just resorted to wearing rather skimpy clothes, you know - clothes like mini-

skirts, hot-pants, tank-tops, bikinis or sexy bras and panties, or perhaps none ? Perhaps you like to flirt a lot - it makes you feel good ? That's quite common by the way ... you are not the first (or biggest) flirt the world has ever seen. Teasing men till they go crazy is a very well tested technique and I can tell you "it works" ! So , you think you are in big trouble with God ? Well you are wrong! None of these things is the unforgivable sin! In fact, the clothing (or lack thereof) one's are most likely only "minor misdemeanors" - kind of like men chatting in the synagogue or church. The "flirting thing" can be damaging and often leads to the "Adultery thing" - all of which needs to be stopped ASAP, for your sake and everyone else's. There are many reasons why woman (and men) flirt " with (or without) intent ". It's dangerous and many do go on to commit adultery, but none of the reasons will ultimately excuse this behavior to God - just a simple "I'm really sorry Lord, please forgive me and help me stop this damaging behavior" will suffice ! God will forgive you and help you.



## Tamar

Not many of the women in Jesus' family tree are mentioned, but most of those that are have a VERY colorful past!

Tamar, the mother of Perez, who appears as common to both Joseph and Mary's lineage, was a "Single mother" and Perez was one of her twin sons born of a very carefully crafted encounter with her father-in-law (she was at the time twice widowed) to ensure that her and her children were not cheated out of their inheritance. She was almost stoned to death for "pretending to be a prostitute" in order to "trick" her father-in-law, Judah - something which she did manage to *pull off* and thus became pregnant with his children. She

did not end up marrying Judah, her father-in-law, the father of her boys and the man after whom the tribe of Judah is named. It is interesting to note that not only was Judah fooled by her "Oscar winning performance", but he "retained her services on credit" - certainly the first use of "credit" in the bible for such a transaction. However, unlike her, he was in no danger ever of being stoned to death for having done so. This qualifies Judah as a guy who thought he "got lucky" - but didn't, since when Tamar produced the signed "Credit-note" (his walking-stick), he had no choice but to cough up a lot of his property, livestock and money for Tamar and her sons. In earthly terms though, this qualifies Judah as a "Jhon", Perez and his brother as "Bastards" and Tamar as an "Unwed/Single mother", but fortunately for us God obviously judges us humans far more mercifully than we judge ourselves and each other!

So, have any of you ladies ever tried to "*trap a man*" only to end up as single mothers? People like to make you think that you surely must be headed straight for Hell and that there is just no hope for you ... well they are wrong. Your actions may have been somewhat misguided and possibly a little naïve, but this too is NOT the unforgivable sin!

Perhaps you worry about your child being a "bastard" in society's eyes? Well, he/she may not have a dad, but they do have a father who loves them dearly ... our (that's your, mine and their) UNIVERSAL Father ... God, and a better more loving Father you would not have found anywhere! So don't' worry ... simply entrust them into His perfect loving care. You could try real hard to get a "perfect" father for your children down here amongst us mortal men ... and you will likely fail - miserably. Only God is a perfect Father, to all of us who choose to be *adopted* into His family, and the way to do so is by accepting Jesus, God's Son, as our savior. Jesus always points us back to our Heavenly Father. No one knows God better than Jesus, and most others have misrepresented the facts about God (some a lot, some a little) which is why the New Testament exists ... it's Jesus setting the record straight about who God is, how we are to relate to God, what God expects of us, how God wants us to treat others and how we must behave ourselves. Just reading the Gospel of John is normally good enough for us to get the "Gist of Jesus' message". It's extremely liberating, when we realize just how simple, kind, loving and forgiving God's plan for us all (and our families) really is. No complicated theology, no long list of laws/rules!



# Ruth

It is also interesting to note that among Perez's descendants is the man Boaz, Rahab's son. He married Ruth (Not a Jewish woman but a Gentile like most of us) who finally caught his attention by crawling into his bed while he was asleep. Ruth followed a carefully scripted multi-faceted plan to "catch" the rich Boaz - one conceived by the Jewish mother of her deceased husband. So I guess we can say she "married for money" while others would say she was a "gold digger" or married a "sugar-daddy". Either way, Ruth and Boaz were the great-grandparents of King David (himself an adulterer and murderer) the most famous of the Jewish Kings and the Biblically required ancestor of Jesus. Their son Obed had a son- Jesse, who was King David's dad. David was his youngest son.

So, have any of you ladies ever tried to catch a "Nice Rich Man" by using your feminine wiles ? I'd like to know why any woman would choose to use her feminine wiles to catch a "Nasty Poor Man" - though I'm constantly amazed at how so many women seem to go to such incredible lengths to do exactly that! Anyhow, people would like to make you think that you are pretty despicable for doing something similar to Ruth (mostly because they are sorry they did not think of it first) and that you should be headed straight for Hell as a result! Well they are wrong (again) ... this too is NOT the unforgivable sin!

Gosh ... I wonder what Boaz's mommy must have thought of all of this? Her precious Son marrying "that Gentile widow lady Ruth", with Ruth and her mother-in-law "scheming to catch her son" and marry into the family ... worse yet by "crawling into his bed"! Well, I suspect there may well be a few moms



around who have had a serious tantrum or two over some "gold-digging little hussy" using her "witch-like feminine wiles" to "trap their precious son" and not only become his wife but "horrors ... her daughter-in-law" and "perish the thought ... the Mother of her grandchildren"! Well, for any of you who have married "mommy's little boy" - I do have some considerable empathy! You see, I married "mommy's little girl" ... and my mother-in-law has never forgiven me for that. In fact now, some 30 years later, we don't even talk anymore - though some would consider that a blessing !



## Rahab

Well now, let me introduce you to Boaz's mommy **Rahab** - a Gentile and Ruth's mother-in-law. She was a promiscuous woman (to be sure) ... in fact a *prostitute*, but one who is, by many accounts, now safely in Heaven with many of her family members! Go ahead, look at the pictures of **Ruth** and **Rahab** ... ever "been there" with your mother-in-law? What would you give to "be there" with your husband's mommy ? You know, I think they got along just fine! Interestingly **Ruth**, as a widow, ended up having two mother-in-laws: **Naomi** the Jewish mother of Ruth's first husband Mahlon, and **Rahab** the Gentile woman and mother of Ruth's second husband, Boaz. The evidence points to her getting

along just fine with both of them. Funny though, the only mention made of her own mother and birth family, is that she "begged and pleaded" with Naomi not to send her back to them when her husband died. I suspect that they did NOT get along real well - possibly because they did not approve of her first husband and his family. Further I suspect that it was her mother (not Ruth) who was the problem ... since Ruth was really such a pleasant and loving person. *You know, my wife and I can really relate to Ruth* - closely !



## In Conclusion:

So, for all you "naughty" woman out there who believe that nothing good can come from your lives, just you remember that Tamar, Rahab and Ruth were the ancestors of King David, Mary and Jesus. Let us not forget that God chose them all to be the descendants of Jesus. Then there is Bath-Sheba who was King David's favorite wife and the mommy of one of the most famous kings of all time! All in all, I simply cannot think of ANY people that left a bigger mark on the world - can you? So the very things we regard as "terrible" and "shameful" and that are often used to chastise women with - to make them feel so ashamed and guilt-ridden, are really no more shameful to God than ANY sin of man.

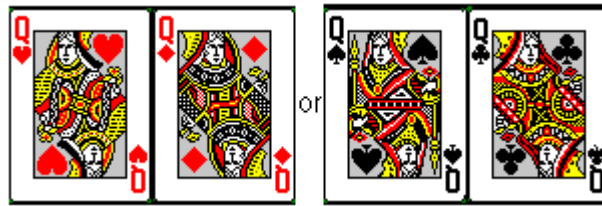
**Are you surprised ? God sure isn't. God has seen it all before!**

So then ladies (and gents for that matter), as all these people did, all you need to do is start life anew - to repent and entrust your life to God and his Son Jesus and watch what is done with/through you! Imagine that you could ask the gentile, Rahab, if she ever regrets having repented and entrusting her life, by faith, to God (thus being "Re-born/Born again") ... do you honestly think she would say "Yes, I'm sorry I did" ? Of course not! How about the gentile, Ruth, who stoically accepted the God of her mother-in-law by faith? How about the Jewish woman Mary, who simply trusted God in a very dangerous situation which could have so easily led to her death?

Just remember ... their descendants went on to be some of the most famous people the world has EVER seen! So why not set your guilt aside by letting God freely forgive you, accept His son, Jesus, as your earthly Shepherd (your Savior) and start out with them on the most exciting adventure of your entire life!

**It's all up to you ... so, what are you waiting for ?**

# The Bible Queens



Now let's go and meet a few of the most noteworthy of all the Queens mentioned in the Bible ...



## Esther



Esther is often called "God's choice of a Queen". The Bible's book of Esther is the story of a girl who's prince found her. But God's purpose in allowing her to meet the king, and for Esther to become the queen, went way beyond romance – as is often the case.

King Xerxes (son of Darius) ruled over the 127 provinces of the great Persian Empire – stretching from India to Ethiopia, from his palace in the citadel of Susa. At a time of great festivities, the likes I have never heard about before or since, he sent for his queen, **Vashti**, requesting that she wear her crown and come and join him and his princes and officials at the party. He kind of wanted to show off her beauty a little ... but she declined ... leaving the king more than a little publicly scorned, which was not a good thing in those days. Anyway, thus started the search

for Vashti's replacement. So, a contest was held throughout his Empire to find the new queen. It was a beauty pageant a lot more lavish than "Miss World" (**Esther 1**) and it certainly made the hit TV series "*The Bachelor*" look quite

*tame by comparison.* Beautiful would be replacements for Vashti came to the palace from all over his Empire. Their preparations for the contest began at once. Each contestant was given beauty treatments for an entire year. The first six months their skin was rubbed with olive oil and myrrh and the last six months with perfumes and cosmetics. Then each contestant got to spend the night alone with King Xerxes. For this interview the contestant could wear whatever clothes and jewelry she thought best suited her – all chosen from the palace. In the evening each contestant would go to meet King Xerxes, and in the morning she was taken to stay with the rest of his wives. I guess that meant she was married – but not yet queen. The king could then request them to return for a second interview or often several subsequent interviews. Is it just me (think *“The Bachelor”*) or does this sound about how Hollywood and the TV industry operates? Can you imagine how Network television, the News-media and Tabloid-press etc. would treat this competition were it held today?

Anyhow, some 4 years later (*that’s 1,500 days ...and some 1,500 awesome women later*) the evening of Esther’s interview finally arrives. The Bible describes it best: *“Xerxes liked Esther more than he did any of the other women. None of them pleased him as much as she did, and right away he fell in love with her and crowned her queen in place of Vashti” (Esther 2 17-18).* Now notice the words “fell in love” and “right away” – that means what it says: *“Love at first sight”*. I Guess that puts to rest the modern (commonly accepted but obviously incorrect) theory that you need lots of sexual practice to develop the prowess to best please a man. You see, Esther was a Virgin – at least she was until that first interview was over. If she lived in modern times, she should have written a book (we sure would have published it) but alas, her secret went with her to the grave ... or did it? When you translate the ex-queen Vashti’s name from Persian to English you get: *“v-S a-T s-U h-P t-I i-D”* since it was Esther’s son Artaxerxes who got to reign on the throne of Persia after his dad died. So what made the mighty Xerxes fall hopelessly in love with Esther ... among such *“red-hot”* competition and on that very first encounter?

Now there are a few things you should know about Esther. She was the clear winner of this Empire wide beauty (*and ... “ahem” ... lover’s*) pageant, and she was also a young, orphaned Jewish woman. This is where God’s purpose for her becomes clear. You see, one of Xerxes’s top officials, **Haman**, wanted to do

away with all Jews throughout the Empire - in fact he even got Xerxes to agree to it. Anyway, Esther used her King's love for her to prevent that from happening, and before long, Haman was hanging from the very gallows he had constructed for Esther's uncle **Mordecai** and the genocidal order against her people was rescinded. In fact they were given the right to eradicate any people with anti-Semitic aspirations, though it would seem that they must have missed one guy - and he fled to Austria. Well Mordecai, being the one who raised Esther after her parents died, got to be King Xerxes highest ranking official. Xerxes loved Esther dearly, and she remained his queen for life. Anyhow, here is the clincher: When in a competition with the most beautiful and seductive women in that entire Persian (and Mede) Empire, Esther won - not because of her considerable sexual exploits and lots of plastic surgery ... but because God had wanted it that way !

This all makes for a classic Cinderella story. Imagine the auditions for the leading lady's role in a blockbuster Hollywood production for which all the well known, talented and beautiful movie-stars audition ... when along comes this young orphaned virgin from a small town in rural America, who has never acted before in her life - and gets the part ! Don't you wish that *just once* this would happen nowadays ? Well, Esther proved that when you totally rely on God's help and allow Him to guide your life - anything is possible ! But, let's not forget, there was a divine purpose to her life - other than just her becoming queen !

So, this begs the question: " *Have you ever asked God to find your perfect mate?*" My wife and I did, those many years ago, and miraculously it worked for us too - but also for reasons of more than just romance. It was truly "*Love at first sight!*" (*If you are in doubt, read our story sometime and judge for yourself*) No, we did not get to interview 1,500 suitors, but even now some 30 years later, still no other would be "Prince" or "Princess" (wonderful though they be) has ever succeeded in turning our heads for more than a moment, and with God's continued blessing, it will stay that way. To be truthful, there was a time when we forgot about God and our dreams were very nearly shattered, but fortunately God did not forget us and we remembered again ... pretty fast !

So now that you know *Esther's beauty secrets and winning strategy* ... care to use it? God will answer your request but just ensure God knows your heart is pure and your intentions honorable and that this is not just one of those "One-

sided" deals of convenience. The alternative is that by default *that other guy* gets to choose your mate for you ... and apparently many of you ladies have already found your *mate from hell* that way ?

Ok ... so are any of you ladies orphans? Alone ... your mom and/or dad died, sister(s) gone, and you miss them all ... terribly ? Perhaps you are part of a minority group ? Perhaps even a *persecuted minority group* ? Did you notice what God did for Esther ? Did you notice how all those lovely Persian ladies lost out to Esther in the game of love - and she got the King, and became his Queen ! Did you notice how God used Esther to carry out such an important mission - saving an entire people (his people) ? Did you notice how Esther's children got to go on to be some of the most powerful and influential people in the world ? All this does not sound like failure to me ... sounds like this is one woman whose faith in God and beliefs should be emulated ... by all women !

To be sure, we are talking about a society which existed some 2,500 years ago and the norms and morals were a bit different back then - but the main point in this story is not that Xerxes got to audition 1,500 lovers to find his ideal mate (*don't try that at home ladies ... or gents*) - but rather that God made him *swoon when Esther walked into the room*. You know, I'm sure that God will help you too if, like Esther, you simply depend on Him - and ask for His help, then faithfully trust God - just like Esther did! Why am I so sure? Because God did this for us ! However, do not be in a huge rush - let's also not forget how long Esther had to wait for her *audition for the part of queen*. For Esther it took some 4 years, and for my wife and I, it took almost 8 years.

Well, Esther's young adult life may not have started out blissfully happy, but I sure hope I've convinced you that happy endings are possible with God at the center of your life. So your life may not be perfect right now, and your past may indeed have been somewhat colorful - so what are you going to do about your future ? I suggest you Simply do what Esther did. Entrust your life to God and Jesus. Better than that you just cannot do - try as you may, and many have. You know, the alternative is not nice at all. You will soon read about Queen Jezebel, and will see what I mean., But before we do, let's conclude by

saying: **Esther is the clear choice for Queen of**





# Jezebel



Jezebel was an evil person who fought against everything that represented God! She married **Ahab**, king of Israel, who "*did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him*", for Ahab not only "Married Jezebel, the daughter of **Ethbaal king of the Zidonians,**" - he converted to her religion!

Now given the fact that Jezebel was a *Baal worshipping foreigner* - an abomination in the eyes of God, this was bad news! The main characters in the life of Jezebel were all affected in one way or another by her evil deeds. She brought down God's curse on her entire family - hardly what a mother and wife (and person) should be doing. She totally controlled and manipulated her children, her husband, her friends, her priests and her subjects. Ahab was a weak willed man whom she completely dominated and led to do much

evil (**1 Kings 21:25**). She encouraged him and all of Israel to worship idols, while she personally made sure all the prophets of God (who she could catch) were killed. (**1 Kings 18:4**) She took good care of the prophets of Baal - giving them direct access to the throne. (**1 Kings 18 and 19**) Jezebel's domination of her husband was directly responsible for the whole nation of Israel falling into the *sin of idolatry* - as a result Israel suffered a terrible famine caused by the lack of rain. This was God's judgment. (**1 Kings 17**)

When **Elijah** (*in one of the most dramatic encounters in the Bible*) killed all the prophets of Baal at **Mount Carmel**, Jezebel soon got on his case. She vowed to take his life! Elijah knew this was no empty threat and ran for his life. This

mighty prophet of God, who raised the dead and who had called down fire from Heaven - and who easily makes *Indiana Jones* look like a wimp, soon became afraid and even quite depressed because of Jezebel's action ... to the point that he actually begged God to let him die! The spirit of Jezebel is so very intimidating and frightening that it led this mighty prophet of God to sit down under a broom tree in the dessert and say "*I've had enough Lord, take my life; I am no better than my ancestors*" and with that he lay down under the tree and fell asleep. So, here we find a very good biblical reference to depression. Any of you ever struggle with depression? You may want to read (1 Kings 19).

(1 Kings 18) Jezebel not only worshipped idols but also practiced witchcraft (2 kings 9:22). She portrayed the broadest spectrum of the *forces of darkness* of any biblical woman. *Shakespeare's Lady Macbeth could have learned a thing or two from her.* Why? Well for starters she did similar things - and much more! There was this man **Naboth** who owned a vineyard, and Ahab desired it - but Naboth refused to sell the king this piece of his family's property. So Ahab got depressed and took to sulking - like some spoiled child. Jezebel intervened (behind the King's back) and had Naboth killed (rather deviously) simply to meet Ahab's selfish needs. As King and Queen, it was hardly imperative that they own yet another vineyard! The Vineyard in question was just a *toy* for Ahab - it was a very much valued family property, with memories and income, for Naboth. At this point Jezebel herself was in charge of the nation of Israel. Ahab the king was simply her puppet. (1 kings 21)

Queen Jezebel's fascination with getting and holding onto "Power" coupled with her rather unique approach to real estate transactions, would easily classify her as a criminal, but her greater crime was *promoting her Phoenician religion, and doing so at the expense of the one true God - the God of Israel.* However, it is a fact that Jezebel was quite a religious enthusiast - some 450 priests of Baal ate at her table. Ever known such "very religious" people who were just plain rotten to the core? Well (regrettably) I have to tell you, they do exist.

God eventually sent the prophet, Elijah, to declare His judgment on King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. Ahab was to die, and have dogs lick up his blood, and his descendants (sons) would be cut off from the throne of Israel (1 kings 21:17-22, 1 kings 22:29 - 40, 2 kings 10). As for Jezebel, she was to be eaten by dogs and her remains were to be 'scattered as dung on the face of



the earth' (1 kings 21: 23-28, 2 kings 9: 30 - 37). God's judgment caught up with them both, exactly as prophesied - first Ahab and then Jezebel. However, she lived for quite a while before God's judgment caught up with her. Apart from idol worship, witchcraft and sheer wickedness she also used the spirit of domination and seduction to get her ways - she was, by all accounts, a very beautiful woman. (2 kings 9:30). There is no record of Jezebel ever repenting. She did much evil.

The main lesson to be learned, from her life, is never to envy the workers of evil, no matter how well they seem to be doing. Evil people often do live long. Our merciful God gives them every reasonable chance to repent, but destruction waits for them if they do not. In the end, for all of her evil, she ended up (as prophesied by Elijah) - as '*dog food*' and '*fertilizer*' (2 Kings 9:36-37), with no recognizable part of her left to enshrine. God completely wiped her, her sons and her prophets off the face of the earth!

Some of her daughters survived. You may wish to read the story of one of the daughters of Ahab - Athalia (2 Kings 11) to see what a horrid person she was! She killed all but one of her grandchildren and almost destroyed the Messianic (Davidic) bloodline from which Jesus was to come. She installed herself as Queen and ruled for several years but ultimately was foiled by a very courageous woman, Jehosheba, who was her niece, and the surviving (Davidic) grandson was made King. It just goes to show, out of Ahab's family came good and evil ... we all have a free will and can chose to do *good* or *evil*. But, unfortunately, the spirit of Jezebel (and Ahab) lives on and every now and then we see or hear of another '*Jezebel and Ahab*' somewhere ... they make a very cohesive and powerful *ruling team* together, but he is likely just the front man for her ambitions. Seen any examples lately? Maybe even (from time to time) ruling the most powerful modern Empire on earth ? But why anyone (after reading the story of Jezebel) thinks evil pays is beyond me. She gives new meaning to the phrase "Short term (lifetime) gain ... for long term (eternity) pain". This is not a person to emulate! So much potential ... but what a complete and utter failure! *Could have been so different though*. Ironically, there is biblical evidence that Ahab did repent (1 Kings 21:25-29) for his part in (at least one of her crimes) the death of **Naboth**, an innocent man that his queen, Jezebel, so callously destroyed, and simply yet for another little piece of land.

The original, contemporary name of this foreign queen of Israel is attested to on a ninth century scarab as **Yzebel** which means '*[Baal] is prince*'. However it is also written as a Hebrew word which sounds almost identical, but which means something which is actually very insulting, **Ayzebel** which means '*Where is the Sh--?*'. Given her sorry end, the connection between this name and the last sentence in (2 Kings 37) becomes readily apparent: "*the corpse of Jezebel will be like dung spread on the fields, so that no one will be able to say: This was Jezebel.*" - This indeed happened.

Jezebel did commit the unforgivable sin - she never repented of her wickedness and is today in Hell - forever! There was no state funeral, no shrine and most everyone (except the seriously twisted) thinks of her as a failure - as a person, as a woman, as a wife, as a mother and as a queen. The fact that she so firmly believed in what she was doing and that the way she was acting was absolutely "right", does not make it so. God tells us what is "Right" and "Wrong" - it's not the other way around.

It is not pleasant for me to discuss Jezebel. If you read her story in the bible (Kings 1 and 2) you will see that I have actually mostly only mentioned her good points. This person brings disgrace to women, and I'd like to think of her as an imposter - some kind of alien, *but certainly not a woman. She definitely was no lady!* I imagine meeting the daughter of someone very similar to Jezebel (*right down to the Naboth incident*) and becoming part of her family. For our family this is a very personal story. These people are downright dangerous, totally self-absorbed, manipulative, extremely overbearing and a law unto themselves - and they hurt a lot of people. My advice is simply "Don't be one and don't hang out with one!" Either way, it hurts like hell and may destroy you.

Jezebel is the only choice for Queen of ♠ since with her actions *she dug so many people's graves* - including one's for her family and one for herself - and then promptly fell into it ! Note: Though Ahab was King, Jezebel really ruled Israel and did so at a time when 2 of God's most awesome prophets lived - Elijah and Elisha. Interestingly, neither of them was used to destroy her, though Elijah sure did quite a number on her "Baal prophets"! It was Jehu, who was anointed the successor to Ahab,, that ended the reign of queen Jezebel, and destroyed her family. Unlike Elijah, he never encouraged her to repent, but simply showed her no mercy, and won!



## Bath-Sheba



**Bath-Sheba** was an awesomely beautiful woman. **David**, the fearless warrior, who once had taken on the Philistine giant Goliath, had now been king of Israel for quite some

time. It was spring - the time that Kings waged war (must have been the testosterone rising in them) and David sent his troops off to battle an old foe - the Ammonites ... but this time he didn't join them. This left him in Jerusalem, in his palace, fretting and restless. One evening, unable to sleep, David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of his palace, surveying the city below him. I can imagine the heat of the day now subsiding and the city starting to settle into it's evening routine, people getting ready for supper, the last rays of the sun still illuminating the buildings, hills and surrounding trees, bathing them in a warm golden glow.

That wasn't the only "bathing" going on ... at exactly that time, a young gorgeous beauty was bathing on the roof of her house - in clear view of David, still on the palace roof. One can only imagine the scene, but I believe the painting above does some justice to it - from David's perspective that is, since she is apparently all he could concentrate on ! Now, this was springtime and with all that testosterone rising up in this warrior king, and him not in battle, things were bound to get a little racy ... and they did.

Filled with lust for this beautiful woman, David immediately sent someone to find out more about her. It turns out, she was Bath-Sheba, daughter of Eliam and wife of one of his warriors, **Uriah** (the Hittite) now at the front lines where general **Joab** was besieging the port city of Rabbah - the place where

David should have been also. It is important for us to remember that David, as king, could have had any woman for his wife - but David wanted Bath-Sheba, another man's wife. Without thinking it through, David acted on his desires and sent for Bath-Sheba. What happens next is not terribly well described, but it is apparent that Bath-Sheba was not an unwilling participant. David and Bath-Sheba's legendary love affair had now started and, as always, this campaign of theirs was fraught with more dangers than the war he should have been fighting in instead. Just like with Caesar and Cleopatra, David and Bath-Sheba clearly were very attracted to one-another - there was a lot of electricity in the air surrounding these two lovers and, as often happens, Bath-Sheba became pregnant with his child.

Now this was a problem. You see, when Uriah left for the front, his wife was having her period. This would tend to indicate to most men (even the dumbest) that he had nothing to do with her becoming pregnant. So, there was no way of surprising poor old Uriah with the "wonderful news that he is soon going to be a daddy!" when he returned from battle. Bath-sheba made this all quite clear to David, who then formulated a plan.

He sent for Uriah, inquired how the war was going, and suggested that Uriah go and visit with his wife and relax some before going back to war. The idea was simple "Uriah, you've been gone at war for some time now, you have a stunningly gorgeous wife ... what comes to mind ?" Now unfortunately for all concerned, Uriah was more principled than David would have hoped.

He refused to go and visit with his wife! ("Principled" is rather charitable - "Dumb" is more appropriate) His reasoning was this: "With all the sacrifice going on in the front lines by my buddies, it is pretty mean of me to be enjoying the sexual favors and company of my wife". So was Uriah Dumb? No, Dumber! You see, David had a problem! So he invited him for dinner ... got him all soused up and sent him off towards his home - on the assumption that "Absence may make the heart grow fonder ... but liquor is quicker". Now many guys have found this to work with their dates, but unfortunately for all concerned, Uriah just simply went and passed out on the front steps of his house. *He would not go in to be with Bath-Sheba* ! Pretty frustrated with Uriah's lack of co-operation, David now sent him back to the battle with sealed orders for general Joab. Joab followed David's orders and placed Uriah in a

life threatening situation, and then withdrew all support for him. To put it plainly, David had him killed to cover up their love affair. Ouch !

Now, Bath-Sheba, not knowing what David had done, took the news badly, and went into mourning. However, after she was reconciled to the fact that Uriah was no longer in her life, David sent for her and she and he were married. Two lovers, finally together ... and now seemingly legally. Of course, God was not sitting there covering his eyes when all of this was happening. He sent **Nathan**, His prophet, to confront David over this whole "affair". David had now broken the 6th, 7th , 9th and 10th commandments of God. Now, that's 4 out of 10 commandments of God! I guess it's game over for David and likely for his new wife ... off to Hell for them ? No ... you're wrong. David, realizing that God was displeased with his actions confessed his sins before God and was genuinely sorry for them. God, speaking through Nathan, told David that while their sin's were forgiven and would not be held against them, their "love-child" would not live and from now on his family would never again be at peace. So, really, David and Bath-Sheba had been even Dumber !

All happened as the Lord had decreed through Nathan. I guess there is a price to pay for having a love affair. Many people (often very innocent one's) get hurt as a result, but this is NOT the unforgivable sin! You can read most of the story in (**Samuel 11 and 12**) .

My own family has been touched by this sin and I have seen it's pain first hand. You see, my maternal grandfather had an affair with a young woman when my grandma, Maria (pictured below) was in her early 40's. My mother was 7 when my grandma, his childhood sweetheart, simply took their children and left him to be alone with his "new love". She was broken-hearted, unable to deal with the hurt and rejection of his "affair". By the time my mother was 12, my grandma was dead of cervical cancer - at age 49. The Centers for Disease Control reports that the sexually transmitted HPV virus is responsible for as much as 93% of all cases of cervical cancer. Most women infected with HPV never develop cervical cancer, but those women that do develop cervical cancer are usually infected with the HPV virus. So, my maternal grandfather's infidelity very likely also ended up costing my grandmother, Maria, her life ... and left my mother an orphan. Her dad's new wife (*the wicked step-mother*) wanted nothing to do with her and her brother and so she was raised (up until



the age of 16) by an older sister and her husband, at which time she moved into the YWCA and later, when she was 20, she met my dad and married him. My mother had 5 siblings and my dad 9. As a result I had many cousins - on both sides of the family. On my Dad's side of the family, there was almost no history of adultery and divorce. Excluding our family, Only my Dad's youngest brother got divorced (that's 9 siblings and more than 40 cousin's marriages with a 100% success rate - pretty astounding really). Contrast that with my mother's side of the family where 2 out of every three of us cousins (in every family) got divorced, some more than once - that's a 66% failure rate. I am the lucky (blessed) 1 out of the 3 of us siblings that is still with his

childhood sweetheart - and by the way, though I never knew her, *even I can see that I look exactly like my grandma Maria!* My Aunt's husband (the one's who were raising my mother), contacted my grandpa when my grandma lay close to death in hospital, and he came to visit her. They were reconciled on her deathbed, with him acknowledging what a *stupid idiot* he had been, and how *she was still his first and only true love*, though he likely did not know that he also caused her death. His second wife was barren - she never could conceive, and died a bitter lonely old lady - not mourned for (or missed) by anyone and not even his acknowledged true love. That's really pretty sad for everyone involved.

**It's really pretty obvious why God intended us to be faithful in our love and marriages.**

God knew what hurts could arise, and because God loves us so very much and cares genuinely about our happiness, He commands that " **Thou shalt not commit adultery** " and " **Thou shalt not covet your neighbors wife** " - and by the way, that also means " **Thou shalt not covet thy friend or neighbor's husband** " ! The results of breaking these commandments are BAD! Do we all get tempted at some time to break these (and others) of his commandments? Why yes, else we would not really have a free will. Will we give-in to temptation ? That is a matter between us, God and Satan. We choose! We are not forced by either God or Satan to do anything. There is no such thing as "The devil made me do it". We choose to do it! Yes, the thrill of having a love affair is one of life's all time highs, but we do not have to participate. We must think of the others who could be hurt by our actions - yes, even the other *participant* in " *the affair* " .

Bath-Sheba went on to remain David's favorite queen, and her son Solomon, went down in history as one of the greatest (though not perfect) kings of all times. His wisdom, wealth and power were legendary, as were his prowess as a lover. His mother remained an important figure in Israel, long after King David died. Bath-Sheba died well loved, well respected and successful ... her family's future secured. Her life was not without grief and guilt though. She lost her Husband - partly due to her indiscretion, but mostly due to King David's lust. She lost her first-born son, directly as a result of their affair and David's actions to cover it up. So, she had to deal with the guilt of her first husband's death, of her adultery and of her first-born's death, as well as the obvious grief associated with her loved one's dying. She did so by being genuinely sorry for what she did wrong in God's sight and God not only forgave her, He comforted her and blessed her with another son, this one the product of a loving legitimate marriage ... a very loving relationship with King David. It was not David's other wives whose sons went on to be the King, it was her son Solomon. I do not doubt that she is in Heaven today. Can any of you relate to the guilt and grief this lovely queen must have borne ? If you ever find yourself in similar circumstances, do not thumb your nose at Almighty God, humble yourself and ask for his forgiveness ... you will get it, and His blessing ! Bath-Sheba is absolute proof of that !

**Bath-Sheba is the clear choice for Queen of**





## Herodias

was a granddaughter of Herod the great - who had four sons. When he died he divided his kingdom equally amongst them. Herod Antipas ruled over Galilee and Perea. Herodias first married her uncle, King

Herod Philip, but while a guest in their home, her other uncle, Herod Antipas (also a King), persuaded Herodias to leave her husband for him. Marriage to one's brother's wife - while the brother was still living, was forbidden in the Mosaic law (See Leviticus 18:16). Thus there was a *whole lot of wife swapping going on* - and what with the "the wife in question" being a niece and all, it was sure to catch some religious fellows attention. Well, the religious establishment of the day dared not criticize Herod - he was not known to be real pleasant when someone found fault with him. There was such a cozy relationship between the monarchy and the clergy that they simply *looked the other way* - and from time to time, Herod probably returned the favor.

However, **John the Baptist** did'nt. He openly criticized Herod and Herodias, as Elijah had done to Ahab and Jezebel. Both of these proud people did not like John and would have preferred to see him dead, but Herod was wary enough of the people (who considered John a prophet) that he did nothing - other than *gnash his teeth* and put up with Herodias's nagging him to "do something about that thorn in the side" - John. Once again, the same as before with Ahab and Jezebel and Elijah. Bear with me ... this "family affair" is about to get quite a bit more complicated - with Herod's to the left and to the right, and pretty much everywhere ... and the whole family seemingly marrying each other! I guess you can say: "*They really loved themselves and each other ...*" but that soon will become even more apparent.



Well, Herodias's daughter, Salome, who ended up marrying her granduncle (the other) Philip - also a king and also the son of Herod the Great and who ruled in the northern territories, was one truly sexy woman and a very gifted dancer - and we ain't talking about "the Waltz" here! Before she married Philip - while she was "of marriageable age", she was, on the occasion of his birthday, persuaded to dance for "uncle Herod" (Herodias's second husband Herod that is, not her dad, Herod Philip, Herodias's first husband and also not Philip, her soon to be husband). Well, uncle Herod was so taken with this young girl (big surprise) and her lascivious dancing (basically this means 'very sexy') that he promised her *"anything she would ask for - up to half of his kingdom"* as a "thank you gift" for her wonderful dancing - but knowing him, by "gift" he was probably meaning "Himself". Well now, this was kind of like a *Genie giving you only one wish!* So, it's time to go and consult with Mama ... Uncle Herod's wife that is - if you're keeping track of all of the familial relationships.

Now an important bit of information: **Jesus** (living and conducting God's work amongst his people at the time) himself told his disciples that **John the Baptist, was Elijah** - returned to pave the way for the Messiah. (**Matthew 17:10-13**). What is more is that the circumstances surrounding John's conception and birth were almost identical to that of Jesus. Mary's cousin Elizabeth, was infertile. Both her and her husband were from the priestly tribe of Aaron, and he was a priest. An Angel of the Lord appeared to him while on duty in the temple and told him that Elizabeth would bear a child - that must be given the name "John" and that he would be great in the sight of the Lord and will be filled with the Holy Spirit - even from birth. The angel, by the way, was *Gabriel*, Heaven's arch-angel, and he went on to say that John would bring many people back to their Lord - God, and that he would go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah to prepare the way for Jesus. (Full story in **Luke 1:5-25**). So now lets return to the banquet hall ...

While Uncle Herod was sitting there, probably expecting a "Take me for your wife please uncle ..." answer - just a wild guess on my part, Salome comes back into the banquet room (accompanied by Mama Herodias) and there in front of all the guests - those that had witnessed Herod promise her "anything", she asks Herod for ... *John the Baptist's head on a platter!*

**Now, the Bible says:** "The King was distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he ordered that her request be granted and had John beheaded in prison. His head was brought back in on a platter and given to the girl, who carried it over to her mother". (**Matthew 14:3-11**)

I can tell you *exactly how Herodias re-acted ... with great satisfaction!* She was a scheming, controlling manipulator - ruthless and with no respect for God, her husbands (the kings), men in general or God's Prophets. She used her own (and her daughter's) sensuality as a means of control - to garner power and wealth and live the good-life, with absolutely no care or concern for people outside of her own rather incestuous familial sphere. *Ever seen any people like this before in our modern society?* She was a queen of Israel (twice over actually) and death and killing were in her genes. This obviously was the Spirit of Jezebel living on - *Herodias was Jezebel's spiritual heir.* Jezebel had finally delivered on her promise to kill Elijah for his criticisms of her and her family - then and now. She had got even for now ... but the war continues! How do I know? Well not long after John The Baptist was beheaded, **Jesus** (in a scene called the *Transfiguration*) goes up a high mountain with Peter, James and John, and transfigures there - in front of their very eyes ... His face shining as the sun, his clothes appearing like light - and who should appear to meet with him? Moses and Elijah! There on that mountain, they conferred. (**Matthew 17:1-13**) But who else lives on? Why Jezebel of course ... Don't know about you, but I'm squarely on the side of Elijah!

If all this is beginning to sound a little weird, consider this: (**Revelations 2: 18-29**) speaks of Jezebel (and from it's description there's no mistaking who this is It is *the Jezebel* of old - somehow returned) and warns about listening to her and following her ways. Judging from the fact that the Holy Spirit can be divided amongst many of the faithful (a fundamental fact in Christianity) - without diminishing it, it is apparent that the same is true for the Spirits of Elijah and Jezebel ... and likely many others. This is a very common sense principle actually. This page you are reading now is being simultaneously read and intellectualized by people all around the world - without diminishing it, and any computer program (game, word-processor etc.) can be simultaneously executing on millions of machines around the world (the same code making all those computers do similar things) without diminishing it. If you kind of think


of us people as similar to "computers" and these spirits as the "code/programs" it is not difficult to see how people then can portray much the same characteristics as those that have been before. What you do not want is one of these '*rogue programs (a virus?)*' executing it's '*instructions*' inside of you ! What you need, is the spiritual equivalent of a *virus scanner* ... the Holy-Spirit, to be resident inside of you, else you will be susceptible to these *rogue spirits*.

You know, when I talk to most men about things such as these, their eyes glaze over. The same is not true for women ... they mostly listen and can quite easily relate. I have had to conclude that when it comes to spiritual matters, woman are somehow more perceptive and attuned to the spirit world. By the way, Elijah is one of very few people who were not taken out of this world *feet first* and buried. He was taken up to Heaven while still alive. (2 Kings 2:7-18) It is interesting to note that Elisha (the successor to Elijah) asked for a double portion of Elijah's spirit and seemingly got it ! Now that's one spirit that you can request a portion of - but God's Holy Spirit is the crucial one for you, me and all of us! If it were up to me, I would try my best to ensure that no other woman ever again has her life and family ruined by the spirit of Jezebel ! If you read our family's story, you will understand that *Jezebel* has a lot to do with initiating this mission my wife and I now find ourselves on. *We have taken up the banner of Elijah, and we encourage others to do likewise*. Well, I cannot say I understand everything about the spiritual world - though the precedents are clearly established and all quite biblical, and we ignore them at our peril ! *Now back to the story ...*

So, once again though, this *spirit of Jezebel* living on in the bodily form of Herodias, was just as reprehensible as before! There is no evidence that she had *changed her stripes* and the Jezebel spirit seems as stubbornly evil, initially, then and now and even, as prophesied in the book of **Revelations** - will still be in the future! This is not a spirit to ask for any portion of - let alone a double portion. In plain English, do not try and emulate Jezebel and Herodias. They were *Hellish fiends* ... and not any credit to womankind! Just like Jezebel before her, there is no evidence that Herodias ever repented of her sins, and she died that way - thus committing the unforgivable sin - being hostile to God and His prophets (and to Jesus by the way) without ever changing. As such, she

too went to hell - but once again, her daughter and descendants lived on, and the *Spirit of Jezebel* was not quashed and remains active and destructive, even to this very day! *Where? Look closely at those that appear power-hungry.*

What a contrast to all the wonderful woman we have met and talked about in our visit together. Of course, men can be (and are) real stinkers too - and there are many examples of evil spirits (as bad or worse) that they are susceptible to, but who can deny that Jezebel and Herodias were *real stinker*.

Thus Herodias is the natural choice for Queen of 

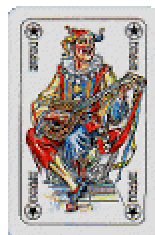
Our choice is quite clear:

(#1) Jesus  

Who introduces us to God's "true nature", and always teaches us to respect and obey our Creator.



↓ It's between these two: ↑

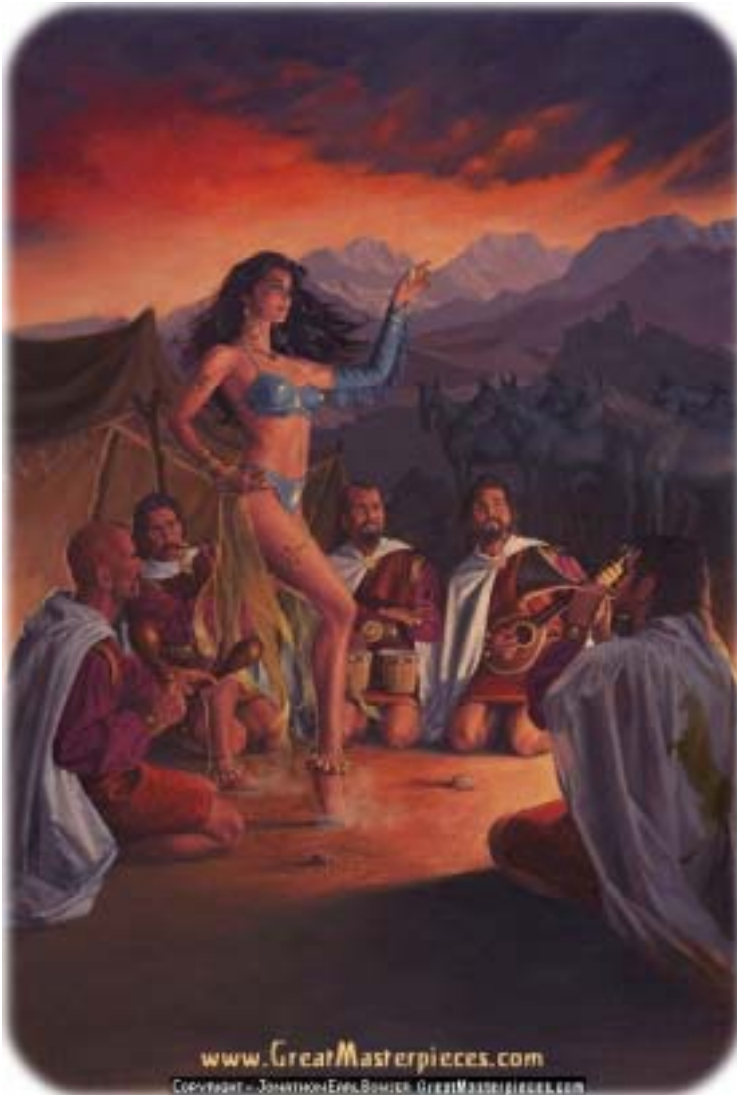


⇐ or ...Satan (#2) - Who always encourages us to disrespect God and to rebel against God. If we choose #2, then this guy assisted by his angels (demons) and, of course, his loyal and/or unwitting subjects, is going to "torch" our world ... and lay waste to our lives!

Well, now maybe we should go and visit with some of

# Love's losers ...

There are so many of these in the Bible, that one could write a book just about them, but I am going to highlight just two, one a man and the other a woman.



## Samson and Delilah

Samson's arrival onto this earth had a lot in common with that of Jesus and John the Baptist. His mother was infertile (like Elizabeth, John's mother) and (just like with the birth of Jesus and John) an Angel appeared, first to her and then to both her and her husband, and told them they were going to have a child - a very special child. (**Judges 13**) So Samson was born and grew into a strong handsome young man blessed by God with a Great Spirit, mind and body.

However, his romantic heart and love for women (the wrong kind of women) were his downfall. For all

his strength and lofty position in Israel, he was quite a bit of the "Ahab" at heart. He fell in love with a young Philistine woman named Timnah, and the whole thing ended rather badly - for Samson that is. She ended up basically leaving him at the altar and "shacking up" with one of his friends - a best man at his wedding. Besides this, she betrayed his trust within the first week of

their nuptials, by allowing herself to be used by other men to get vital information out of Samson. (**Judges 14-15**)

After this initial disappointment with love and women, Samson decided that perhaps the bachelor's life and dalliances with Philistine prostitutes was a better way to go ... but soon his romantic heart softened his brain and he fell in love with his "*femme fatale*" - the Philistine beauty, Delilah. In no time flat he was trusting her way too much and she was betraying him way too much! Next thing you know Samson was a captive of the Philistines, in shackles and chains with his eyes poked out - and being used as "the laughing-stock" for the Philistines whenever they wanted to be entertained.

By the way, just as with king Ahab and his wife Jezebel (who was a Baal worshipping foreigner), Samson fell for the ladies who did not believe in the God of Israel. Their 'god' (if you can call it that) was Dagon - the Philistine's 'god'. The Philistines were people who lived in Gaza - a name you still hear often in the news today. In hindsight ... fat lot of good Baal and Dagon did them all ! By contrast, The God of the Jews, Muslims and Christians has proved (again and again) how He really does help His peoples, who have ruled the world for some 2 millennia.

So does Love sometimes hurt ? Samson sure must have thought so ! It hurt a lot more than just his heart ! He lost his vision, his freedom, his strength and his dignity - all for the love of a woman. Choosing wrong and letting your heart over-rule your spirit and your head sure can result in a mess. Any of you ladies been there ? Ever had your husband, fiancé or boyfriend run off with one of your friends ? Ever been Jilted - left standing at the altar ? Ever started hating (disrespecting) men so much that you used them casually (like "prostitutes"), and ended up just debasing yourself instead ? It's amazing to me to see how many women end up despising men and basically use their sensuality to then go on to conquer every last man that they come into contact with, in the "wrong-headed" notion that somehow they are hurting them and getting justice for themselves - when basically they really are hurting themselves even more ! Ever been there ? They spend the whole rest of their lives trying to get even with men (by breaking their hearts) and when one day a real nice guy happens by, they cannot even recognize him anymore. Of course, men do much the same thing and it's just as counter-productive. Ever chose a

man who betrayed you and who ended up costing you your health, your dignity, your freedom and basically everything in life ? Well I'll bet you are surprised to see it happens to us guys too ! Samson and you have a lot in common ... and Samson was a special man of God who, for a while, strayed and trusted himself and the wrong people instead of simply trusting God. It's when he decided to do things on his own that he was weakest. It's when he depended on God for strength that he became a legend !

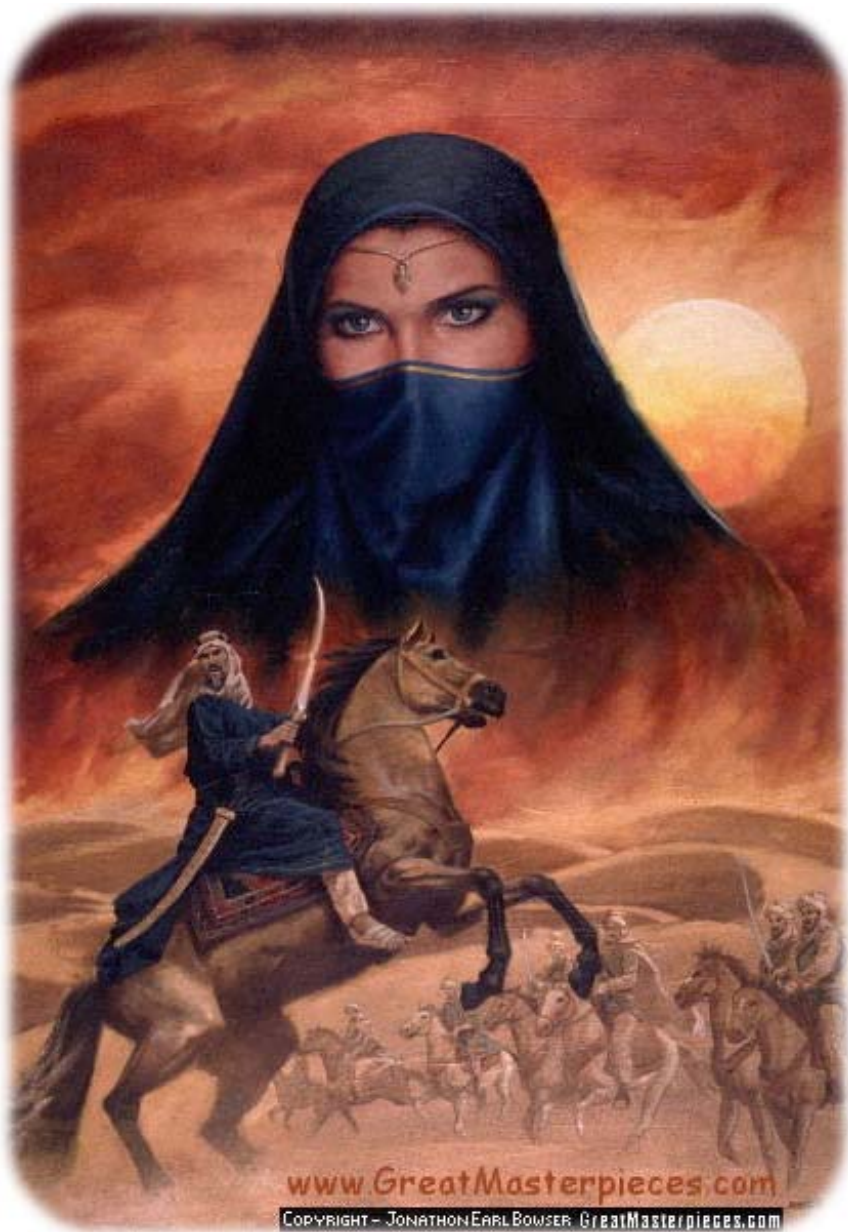
It's really up to you ... not me, or anyone else. You can become a Legend by depending on God for your strength ... or a failure by trying to do it all on your own. Never mind how much intrinsic talent you have going for you, I guarantee that it is not enough. Ask Hitler, Stalin, Napoleon, Alexander the Great, Julius-Ceasar, Cleopatara, Jezebel, Herodias and most all of the many female (and male) Hollywood film stars ... to name just a very few examples.

Samson figured out that he "messed up" - 'fessed up" and asked God to help him regain his dignity. God did, and the last laugh was his (and God's) and there were a lot of dead Philistines to prove it !

Anyhow, there is God's way of doing things and then there is your way and the world's way ... the question is, are you hurting enough yet to try God's way for a change ? I sure pray you do not wait that long ! The alternative is more of the same ... or worse !

What happened to Delilah and Timnah ? Well, nothing noteworthy really. (Look at the picture above). They likely went on to mess up other people's lives too, as well as their own, and it is doubtful that they ever got their acts together, else the Bible would have made special mention of it. It is safe to assume that they ended up in Hell ... just like those many guys, who have been the "Delilahs" in your lives, will - if they do not repent, "straighten up and fly right". So why go to hell just to hang out with them again ?

**Wasn't once enough ?**



## Hagar and Abraham

*Well, now we come to a real tear-jerker.* Look at the picture (above). What you see is Hagar, a lovely young Egyptian woman, watching over her son Ishmael and his descendants, the Arabs - cousins of the Jews. So how did all this come about?

You see, Abraham was the forefather of both the Jews and the Arabs. Abraham's wife, Sarah (then called Sarai) was infertile - unable to give him an heir and learning to live with the fact that she would never be a mother. Abraham was a pretty wealthy guy - but he had no children. Then the

Lord God promised Abraham that he would make him the forefather of a mighty nation, but Sarai really did not quite hold out much hope of her playing any part in that promise - she just laughed. So, feeling sorry for Abraham one day, she suggested that he conceive a baby with Hagar, her lovely young Egyptian hand-maiden, and take her for his wife. Abraham did all this, and their child was called Ishmael. However, things already started getting a little testy when Hagar was pregnant. She began to despise Abraham's wife Sarai, who obviously did not want to be moved out of the limelight by Hagar .

Sarai complained to Abraham who basically said "It was your idea Sarai ... you deal with it". So, to quote the bible exactly: "Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her". (Genesis 16:6) I imagine this "Cat fight" was not done much justice by the author of Genesis, but we can probably imagine it. Anyhow,



pretty soon poor Hagar winds up near a spring in the desert - abandoned by her husband Abraham and chased away like some "common tramp" by Sarai. At this point, an Angel of the Lord appears to Hagar and promises that if Hagar returns and humbles herself, her descendants will be too numerous to count. As well though, the Angel says to her that her son Ishmael (from whom the Arabs are descended ) "will be a wild donkey of a man, his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility towards all his brothers" ... anyone left who doubts biblical prophecy ?

Anyhow, soon Ishmael (whom obviously Abraham must have loved dearly being his first and only son) turns 14 - in those days that makes him a young man. God now delivers on his promise to Abraham and Sarah and she gives birth to Isaac, their first child - and a son. Now the power struggle for the "Heir" to Abraham's empire starts ... culminating at the time Isaac is weaned. Sarah does not want Hagar and Ishmael around anymore and she says to Abraham: "Get rid of that *slave woman and her son* for that slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac". (Genesis 21:10) Could any of you see this problem looming? Any of you ever been there ? Put in modern terms ... who is going to win, the wife or the mistress ? Making matters even worse, the mistress had borne him a son who is a teenager and whose dad had loved him dearly and exclusively for some 15 years already.

This is a tough one ! Things sure were complicated back then when men married many wives and one demanded to be the "Queen" ... or as in this case, "the Major-domo". Abraham, as the father of Ishmael and husband of Hagar - at Sarah's insistence you will recall, should not have allowed Sarah to make him treat them unfairly. Anyhow, Abraham asks God for advise and God tells him to put Sarah first and that He (God) will ensure that Hagar's son Ishmael is also made into a mighty nation - since he is also Abraham's son. Well, with a heavy heart Abraham sends Hagar and Ishmael off with some food and water (personally I think he owed her a little more than this - but I'm not getting into the middle of this age old family feud) and Sarah has got her way. So, before we go any further ... any of you ladies been there ? It's pretty tough to compete (but not impossible as you have seen) against a first wife whom is still loved by her husband. It's a high risk venture and does not always work out in your favor - even when it seems the odds are in your favor. It's all just best to

leave married guys alone ... for your sake, their families sakes and theirs. Of course if we could only impress on them that, as married guys, they should leave you ladies alone ... that would be a monumental breakthrough too!

Now, this next part of the story really rips my heart apart. You see, Hagar, so dependent on Abraham for so many years, having borne him his first-born son, and having been there with him all those many years, now suddenly finds herself a divorcée, discarded, abandoned, rejected and left pretty much to her own devices. To quote the bible: "Early in the next morning, Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. Her set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the desert of Beersheba" (Genesis 22:14) Now, Abraham was a very wealthy man - he had Camels, horses, donkeys - you name it! After all that had transpired, giving Hagar the equivalent of all the food and clothing she could carry, custody of Ishmael and sending her off into the desert does not strike me as even remotely fair ... but maybe it's just my old soft heart talking here. I doubt very much that this is what God had in mind, but there was a history of Sarah not obeying God or taking His promises seriously. Anyhow the bible goes on to say: "When the water in the skins was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down nearby, about a bowshot away, for she thought, "I cannot watch the boy die" and as she sat there nearby, she began to sob" (Genesis 22:15-16) The boy also started to cry ... and why not. Here is a lad and his mommy who were rejected, mistreated, abandoned, chased away - you name it ! Do you want to tell me he didn't love and miss his dad ? They had no women's shelters back then you know ... this was the harsh desert they were in. Ever been there - alone or with your children ? Sometimes my wife meets women in Internet chat-rooms who are in similar circumstances, I remember one sad case just recently, Angelica was what she called herself. Well Angelica, and all you other ladies out there going through similar circumstances ... God is not turning a blind eye to you and your plight, if you have depended on Him till now - now is when you will find He is indeed dependable. If you have not worshipped or acknowledged God, now is a very good time to ask Him to prove that He is real and that He cares about you and your family ... but do so very respectfully, after all, He is God ! Ignore God and he will not force His love and help onto you ... then you are truly on your own in the midst of your crisis, and that's not a nice place to be. You see, the story

goes on to tell how God rescued Hagar And Ishmael and how He delivered on His promise to make Ishmael into a "mighty nation" - the Arabs

Isaac went on to be the fountainhead of the Jews. Remind me to tell you later how Isaac got married ... but until then, it is noteworthy that Ishmael married an Egyptian woman, like his mother, and returned to be at his father's funeral when Abraham died. As such, he showed love for his father - even in death. There is some evidence that later Abraham did give some "gifts" to Ishmael, but Isaac was left everything he owned - as the sole heir. It's strange when you realize that Isaac, in turn, had two sons and the youngest went on to claim the father's birth-right and blessings. Anyhow, try to imagine the hurt that young man Ishmael must have suffered ? Imagine what his mom Hagar endured? Love so cruelly rejected ... ever been there ? Abraham's own son so cruelly rejected by him ? Ever been there ? My wife has. Ever had one of your siblings favored over you ? It hurts, doesn't it ? Well now that you know all this, are you surprised that the Arabs and the Jews are still having this endless family feud ? I'm not !

Does God love the Arabs- Ishmael's offspring ? Yes. Does God love the Jews - Isaac's offspring ? Yes. Does God love us Christians - an offshoot of the Jewish religion ? Yes. Does it bother God that there is all this animosity and fighting going on ? Yes ! Would He as our Father want all of His children to stop feuding ? Certainly ! Why doesn't he force the peace ? Now that would mean God must remove all of our free wills - our ability to choose freely between good and evil, and He is not going to do that. Don't you too wish they would all just stop this crazy age old family feud ? Of course ... we sure do too! Moms and Dads - love your children as equally as you possibly can ! The result in not doing so ... by favoring one child over the other, is terrible pain and needless suffering! Ladies, don't have an affair with a married man and certainly do not have his children ! Someone is going to get seriously hurt, and it may very likely be you and your children ! Gents, do not abuse the privilege of having a loving wife and children - live up to your God given responsibilities !

Anyhow, Abraham and Sarah may not have bothered to look after Hagar and Ishmael, but God did ! In my humble opinion, they had a responsibility to make sure they were well cared for, but they did not act responsibly. Ever suffered as a result of someone else not living up to their responsibilities ? So, you are

not sure that God took care of Hagar and Ishmael ? Well, next time you go and gas-up your car, remember who is supplying the Crude-Oil for the gas ! The Arab nations are today much more wealthy than Israel - though not as influential. This is a one family feud to stay out of - or to stay neutral in ... watch the evening news ! All the same, if you ever find yourself and your loved one's the victims of such unfairness remember that God is not sitting in Heaven covering His eyes or looking the other way - but you had better be sure that you can be counted as part of His family before expecting justice from Him. He is one truly impartial Father whose love can be counted on for ALL His children - even when our earthly fathers (and mothers) fall short of the mark ! However, even though you may have had a great dad, I'll bet you never saw him take responsibility for all the needy children and families - outside of his family. Then why expect God to take care of those families who thumb their noses at Him ? Abraham and Sarah were part of God's family - they did not act responsibly, Abraham failed Ishmael as a dad and Hagar as a husband. Hagar and Ishmael were part of God's family. They depended on God when all seemed so dreadfully unfair and so terribly sad ...and so very hopeless - and God helped them !

By the way, in case you make the mistake of blaming God for this terribly sad fiasco, remember one thing: *God promised to give Sarah and Abraham a son. Sarah doubted God and suggested that Abraham use Hagar as a surrogate mother (the first use of a surrogate mother in the Bible).* This was NOT what God intended to have happen ! If Sarah had simply trusted God and let things unfold God's way, none of the hurt would have happened - instead she had to do things her way ! Ever been there ? Next time you are tempted to interfere in God's plans, think about this story. Anyhow, God did help all parties involved and looked after them all. He forgave any of their bad judgment calls - *but they have yet to forgive each other*, and until they do, this "Family Feud" will be on prime time TV longer than the game-show ever was. Recall any of it?



Love sure can hurt ... a lot ! Ever been there ?

Ok, finally we are going to start discussing that "BIG GUILTY" - **SEX** !



# SEX ... " the BIG GUILTY "

Can we talk "SEXY" for a while ?

Uncomfortable ? That's normal !

The topic of "SEX" and "Sexuality" has been used to lay more *guilt-trips* on people throughout the ages than absolutely anything else has, ever! Everyone has struggled with guilt or fear concerning their sexuality at some point in life. These stories, and specifically this section, is for "*Naughty Nuns*", not for "*Little Angels*" - so if you are one of the very few lucky ones that suffers from no guilt and feels that you personally have never ever done anything (*sexually speaking*) that God may find somewhat offensive, then guess what ... you are in the wrong place and *you can skip right over this section* - and let me be the first

to say: " WOW, after all these years, I've finally met a "Little Angel ! "

My own mother cannot even say the word "SEX". I always have so much fun with her when the topic comes up. She says "... you know" and I say "No, what?" knowing full well what she is trying NOT to say. Then she says "You do know ... the S stuff" and I say "No mom ... what are you trying to say?" Then she says "You know ... S - E - X " and I see her blush as she spells those 3 letters. Then I say "Oh SEX mom ... well why didn't you just say so?" and finally she laughs nervously. She is 70 now, a real classy lady, but still cannot talk very openly about SEX. Well, let's NOT do that. Let's be candid for a while.



Now, let's discuss something that most people struggle with in some way, at some level, sooner or later in their life ... yes even us !

To be perfectly honest, it's hardly like we are perfect and anyhow, none of us have all the right answers for you and your life, let alone ours ... but God and Jesus do - ask them for advise sometime. One thing I do know is that They will NEVER mislead you or lie to you ... that's a guarantee ! I am going to do my best to give you a practical *methodology* for reasoning through matters relating to possible sexual fears, guilt etc. that is based on what Jesus taught, and that will enable you to deal with these issues in a clear and logical manner. But even then, I have to remind you that I am human, and a man, and thus I do recommend that you ask God and Jesus to verify what I'm saying.

### Important:

Please note that it would be most unusual if you, me or anyone else were to have done *none of the naughty things* I am going to mention here (below) ... but it is just as unusual that you , me or anyone else has done *all of the things* that I will be mentioning below. So, when you are reading this section, please do not be offended when you read "You" - since if something *doesn't apply to you personally*, then obviously it just makes for interesting reading ... but just maybe you know of someone it does apply to and can help ?

### OK ... for now then, just keep an open mind:

What exactly does the bible say about Sex and love ? What practices are actually taboo and which are fabricated taboos ? How did some of the misconceptions around "*Sex as Sin*" arise - and why these should be ignored. What did Jesus, St. Paul and the other's close to Jesus say about Sex within marriage, Sex, marriage and divorce ? (You will be amazed at the answer to these questions actually) I believe that whenever Jesus directly spoke on these issues, that should take precedence over anything else said on the matter - in the Old and New testaments, but that those around Him also must have often heard Him talk about these issues and it is wise to listen up to what they have to say as well. I (personally) place less emphasis on what *Leviticus and other early books of the "laws of the Jews"* said, since they are superceded in many ways by what Jesus taught. Why ? Well you will read why

below. So, what can stand in the way of you going to Heaven ... and what cannot? I will do my best to answer those questions as truthfully as possible.

Guilt about Sex has been used as a major tool to make us all squirm and conform for centuries. However, women feel way more guilt on sexual issues than do men. We want to ease that burden of guilt as much as possible.

**The most important starting point is this:**

If God were quite pleased with the way the religious leaders of the day were representing Him and His messages and requirements of us, why would He have gone to the trouble of sending His only Son Jesus on that all important mission - To dwell amongst us Humans for a while, and to explain what God was really like and what God really expected from us ? Which one of us will gladly put their own child through so much pain and suffering for no purpose what so ever? You see, God was not pleased about the ways the Jewish religious leaders had been misrepresenting Him and His requirements of us and the ways in which they were serving (or in their case *NOT serving*) Him. Jesus' mission then was to "save us from their tyranny" - and at times I must admit we seem about in as much need to be saved from this kind of tyranny today as they were then ... but I'd rather suffer than expect God to put His Son through that brutal treatment by the so-called *religious leaders* ... ever again !

**So, the Key to any of my arguments on "SEX" and other issues is this:**

God sent Jesus to be our Savior - to lead us out from under the tyranny of men claiming to represent God, but really only representing their own selfish interests. Our appetite for food and Sex (the two most basic human instincts) is a great way for religious leaders to "control" us - both then and now ! Jesus was sent to tell us about God (nobody else was more qualified to do so than God's own Son) and to warn us clearly about what God did expect of us and, by implication, also to set the record straight on what God did not view as important. He did not shirk his *God given mission*, he spoke clearly about both food and sex. So, If Jesus made a specific mention of something, then I would suggest we sit up and pay attention, if not, then I would argue that it cannot be that important. Why ? Well, since God sent His Son on this *all important one-time mission*, why would he fail to tell us about the really important

requirements God had of us ? If His mission was to be our Savior, then why would he purposely lead us astray by not emphasizing the things that were VERY important to Almighty God ? If He did this, He would not be saving us and showing us how to please God and get to Heaven, but instead He would be condemning us to hell. Of course He did not do this. He was and is our Savior ... so we ought to take what he said seriously and also not put words in his mouth about what he did not say.

So what did Jesus say regarding Sexuality ? Well, the answer is "*Surprisingly little !*" What is more, unlike the religious leaders of the day (and of these days) who liked to single "*Sex sins*" out as the *most heinous of all sins*, Jesus treated it as *simply just another sin* - refusing to harshly condemn these sinners (as the religious leaders did then and do now) and instead always extended an offer of forgiveness and God's mercy to the sinner.

Then why do religious teacher's harp on *Sex sins* so very much ? Well, my wife spent her youth attending a Presbyterian church where their minister would regularly rally "against the evils of *Sex and sexual sins*" and she has a theory about why he did ... *because of his own guilt on the subject*. What is more, he never once mentioned what was required (as Jesus taught) for a person to be "*Saved*", but he did seem rather pre-occupied with "Sex". Now, it is doubtful we will see that minister in Heaven one day, but if I do, I want to "*thump him good*" ... a few times for giving all his parishioners so many hang-ups and a few times for not doing his job and telling people how to get to Heaven. Sometimes it just seems *there is no sin* other than "*Sexual sin*" ?

I will get to specific instances of Jesus' teachings on these matters soon, but first, I would like to quote St. Paul on the subject of Marriage and Sex, since he clearly expressed an opinion on just *how much Jesus said about Celibacy, Sex and Marriage* and, as you will see, his words have a *nice ring* to them !

**1 Corinthians 7:** "Now I will answer the questions that you asked in your letter. You asked, "Is it best for people not to marry?" <sup>2</sup>Well, having your own husband or wife should keep you from doing something immoral. <sup>3</sup>Husbands and wives should be fair with each other about having sex. <sup>4</sup>A wife belongs to her husband instead of to herself, and a husband belongs to his wife instead of to himself. <sup>5</sup>So don't refuse sex to each other, unless you agree not to have sex



for a little while, in order to spend time in prayer. Then Satan won't be able to tempt you because of your lack of self-control. <sup>6</sup>In my opinion that is what should be done, though I don't know of anything the LORD said about this matter. <sup>7</sup>I wish that all of you were like me, but God has given different gifts to each of us. <sup>8</sup>Here is my advice for people who have never been married and for widows. You should stay single, just as I am. <sup>9</sup>But if you don't have enough self-control, then go ahead and get married. After all, it is better to marry than to burn with desire. <sup>10</sup>I instruct married couples to stay together, and this is exactly what the LORD himself taught. A wife who leaves her husband <sup>11</sup>should either stay single or go back to her husband. And a husband should not leave his wife. <sup>12</sup>I don't know of anything else the LORD said about marriage. All I can do is to give you my own advice. If your wife isn't a follower of the LORD, but is willing to stay with you, don't divorce her. <sup>13</sup>If your husband isn't a follower, but is willing to stay with you, don't divorce him. <sup>14</sup>Your husband or wife who isn't a follower is made holy by having you as a mate. This also makes your children holy and keeps them from being unclean in God's sight. <sup>15</sup>If your husband or wife isn't a follower of the LORD and decides to divorce you, then you should agree to it. You are no longer bound to that person. After all, God chose you and wants you to live at peace. <sup>16</sup>And besides, how do you know if you will be able to save your husband or wife who isn't a follower?"

What is important in St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians (above) is that he admits (quite candidly in verse 6) that Jesus said *surprisingly little about Sex within marriage and about celibacy* - unlike the religious leaders then and now. They all wanted to (and still seem to want to) literally get into your marriage bed and dictate to you what is allowable and what is not. I guess they think they are more knowledgeable than Jesus and that he must have "messed up" and "forgot to mention" several important things regarding sex that they must now inform us of? Well my answer to them is simply this: "Jesus is my savior, not you, and he would not have omitted to warn me about anything, that I could routinely do, that would lead me to Hell!"

My Dad is a retired Physician, and in his practice he used to advise Men, when asked regarding the health of their prostate gland - a major worry for most men, that they should "*use it or loose it*". He recounts one resourceful man

turning to him with a big smile saying "*Gee Doc, could you please give me a prescription for that - so I can take it home to my wife ?*" Needless to say, my dad found this request quite humorous.

Notice though that St. Paul (in his letter above) does give both husbands and wives a "*prescription*" to present to each other. He simply states that it is not only a husband's *pleasure* but his duty to fulfill his wife's sexual needs (and visa versa), and that the only exception should be *by mutual consent - and then only as a brief temporary measure so that both can spend time in prayer. Notice he did not say that TV, shopping, a sports game, a night out with the boys/gals etc. was reason enough to abstain.* In other words, A husband or wife should not unilaterally decide to limit having sex or refuse his/her partner's advances. St. Paul suggests that they *are to have sex as frequently as they each need and have a great and fulfilling sex-life.* Now that's in the Bible ! Why? The reason given is simple. A woman or man that is sexually frustrated is more likely to stray than those that are not, and straying is a major cause of pain in a couple and a family's lives and, conversely, a fulfilling sex-life serves as a *strong glue* binding a couple together in an intimate bond that can withstand huge pressures from Satan ... and these will come - count on it! I know this sounds like a "*Crazy Glue*" commercial, but it's true, Sex forms a strong bond between a loving couple - but it needs to be reapplied ... often.

As a humorous aside, my wife and I have (mostly) enjoyed a very close relationship all the way back from our mid-teens till now ... and we pray it continues that way (*you can read part of our story some time*) and, by the way, by mutually agreed upon choice, we were not sexually active in our teens - though, honestly, we were often *mutually tempted* to change that decision. However, we were always seen walking hand-in-hand by the grownups around us, and one day several of them stopped us and asked us why this was ? Being 17 and not knowing quite how to respond to their question - and still holding her hand, I replied "*Crazy-glue*". These men and ladies found this answer humorous and always joked about carrying around a tube of the stuff when courting a young lady. I'll bet that they never suspected that their question would be "discussed" in this manner. Sadly, at least one of them is now dead.

*Well, back to biblical matters ...* St Paul then gave some very simple and practical advise. Here then is a clear Biblical example of why "*Not having sex is*

*dangerous and often leads to sin* " - something that most of us would have never have thought too deeply on ! Can you imagine a sermon on "*the sin of NOT having sex*" ? That would be quite refreshing, but don't hold your breath!

So ladies, when you see your husband sitting in front of the TV set (yet again) eating corn chips, drinking beer and watching that all important 1,000th football game, thus *fulfilling his vows to the networks - but not to you ...* go and put on your "*favorite sexy-naughty-nightie*", take the Bible with you, turn to "*1 Corinthians 7 verse 3-5*", grab him by the ear, walk him towards the bedroom, sit him down on the edge of the bed and tell him to "*read it - and obey it dear*". Now why would a woman *not want her husband to be a Godly man*? Of course ladies, the reverse is just as true - as you read above.

It is also interesting to note that every legitimate study of human sexuality finds that those in a stable loving relationship are significantly more satisfied (sexually) than those that are not. It almost seems to defy logic since one would think that those who are *out and about seducing everyone and anyone that they can* must be having GREAT SEX and we must all be missing out on something ? At least that is what most TV shows, movies and books seem to be telling us all the time. Well, credible scientific studies refutes their views.

**Ok, so now that I've interested you all in marriage, what exactly constitutes becoming a married couple in Heaven's book ?**

Governments would have you believe that you are married when you pay their agents and agencies for a marriage license and then say your "*I do's*" before an official that they "OK" to perform marriages. The government, by the way, is who licenses any priest who performs marriages too, though they would have you believe that God does that. I really suggest you ask to see their "license from Heaven" sometime. The only one they can produce is the one from some government authorizing them to perform marriage ceremonies. So how then did people like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob get married ? Well, biblically speaking, that answer is given in **GENESIS**, with verse 62-67 below detailing the actual marriage ceremony:

**GENESIS 24:** <sup>57</sup>They answered, "Let's ask Rebekah what she wants to do."  
<sup>58</sup>They called her and asked, "Are you willing to leave with this man right

now?" "Yes," she answered. <sup>59</sup>So they agreed to let Rebekah and an old family servant woman leave immediately with Abraham's servant and his men. <sup>60</sup>They gave Rebekah their blessing and said, "We pray that God will give you many children and grandchildren and that he will help them defeat their enemies."

<sup>61</sup>Afterwards, Rebekah and the young women who were to travel with her prepared to leave. Then they got on camels and left with Abraham's servant and his men. <sup>62</sup>At that time Isaac was living in the southern part of Canaan near a place called "The Well of the Living One Who Sees Me." <sup>63-65</sup>One evening he was walking out in the fields, when suddenly he saw a group of people approaching on camels. So he started toward them. Rebekah saw him coming; she got down from her camel, and asked, "Who is that man?" "He is my master Isaac," the servant answered. Then Rebekah covered her face with her veil. <sup>e</sup> <sup>66</sup>The servant told Isaac everything that had happened <sup>67</sup>Isaac took Rebekah into the tent <sup>f</sup> where his mother had lived before she died, and Rebekah became his wife. He loved her and was comforted over the loss of his mother.

<sup>e</sup> **24.63-65** covered...veil: Since the veiling of a bride was part of the wedding ceremony, this probably means that she was willing to become the wife of Isaac. <sup>f</sup> **24.67** took...tent: This shows that Rebekah is now the wife of Isaac and the successor of Sarah as the leading woman in the tribe.

You will find that there were no *priests* or *government officials* or *marriage licenses* anywhere in sight! Now I am not suggesting you disobey the government, that could get me into a whole heap of trouble. Humor them ... get the license. However, for all of those of you who chose to marry without their piece of paper (and by all accounts that's a lot of people nowadays) - do not fret unduly, God is not going to ask to see your license from the "State of Nevada", or anyplace else for that matter ... but he did notice when you and your partner decided to become "a couple" and consummated your marriage. By the way, this does not mean that anyone whom you slept with is your husband ... he may represent your "*indiscretion, your folly or your desire*" but marriage is by "*mutual consent between two adults, with God as your witness*" and you do not need other witnesses, that's the government's requirement. God made a note of your mutual consent and vows of love to one another - as well as the date. *That's your anniversary* by the way. Marriage is a commitment, not a piece of paper.

Do you realize that priests only became a reality after the Israelites left slavery in Egypt to journey to "*the Promised Land*" ? That is when the tribe of *Aaron (Moses' brother)* were appointed to be priests. It was an inherited position, and pretty soon they had to justify their existence and make people pay for them and their *services*. Amongst other things, they levied a 10% tax on gross-income. It did not take long for religious matters to revolve around money. Jesus, during his mission amongst us, did spend quite some time chastising them (rather angrily) for misusing their position as religious leaders in society. He clearly indicated that God was not pleased with many of the things they were doing and the things they were expecting of us, and I suspect that is still as true today. We do need people dedicated to serving God and us. We do not need people dedicated to serving themselves by using our belief in and fear of God to *control us, fleece us* and terrorize us.

So what did Jesus say about individual sexual acts, frequency of sex, locations, nudity etc. inside of marriage? **Nothing** ! Don't you think that if there was something sexual we could do with our partners (husbands or wives) that would stand between us and Heaven that our Savior would have taken some time, while He was here on His *one-time super-critical mission*, to warn us about it ? Of course He would have warned us. However, He did warn us that there is a immutable law of God that takes precedent in any relationship, including that between a Husband and a wife. You simply do not insist that your partner do something (sexual or otherwise) that they really do not enjoy or want to do. You have to be sensitive to their likes and dislikes too. However, this reasoning does not stretch to "I do not like sex (in any form) anymore - *so stop it*" - since when you enter into a marriage, sex becomes *part and parcel* of the relationship, and cannot be separated out from the rest of the relationship. It means that if your partner confides in you telling you that they did not enjoy a particular sexual act - then you are obliged to respect their feelings and do not repeat it or pressure them into repeating it. All the same, as long as you are a happily married, loyal and loving couple, how you conduct your sex-life within the confines of your marriage is really your own business - not ours, or any Priest, Pastor, or Rabbi's business. If they try and tell you that you should feel guilty over doing something or other (relating to your sex-life), simply tell them Jesus did not see fit to tell anyone any of those things and to "*butt out of your sex-life*" and go and do something really useful for a change !

## “ Marriage, divorce and celibacy “ ?

**Matthew 19** <sup>1</sup>After Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went southward to the region of Judea and into the area east of the Jordan River. <sup>2</sup>Vast crowds followed him there, and he healed their sick. <sup>3</sup>Some Pharisees came and tried to trap him with this question: "Should a man be allowed to divorce his wife for any reason?" <sup>4</sup>"Haven't you read the Scriptures?" Jesus replied. "They record that from the beginning ` God made them male and female.' <sup>5</sup>And he said, ` This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.' <sup>6</sup>Since they are no longer two but one, let no one separate them, for God has joined them together." <sup>7</sup>"Then why did Moses say a man could merely write an official letter of divorce and send her away?" they asked. <sup>8</sup>Jesus replied, "Moses permitted divorce as a concession to your hard-hearted wickedness, but it was not what God had originally intended. <sup>9</sup>And I tell you this, a man who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery--unless his wife has been unfaithful." <sup>10</sup>Jesus' disciples then said to him, "Then it is better not to marry!" <sup>11</sup>"Not everyone can accept this statement," Jesus said. "Only those whom God helps. <sup>12</sup>Some are born as eunuchs, some have been made that way by others, and some choose not to marry for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven. Let anyone who can, accept this statement."

Ok, so there are quite a few things here. First note that Jesus does not sanction same-sex marriages, just those between male and female. He goes on to say how perfectly natural it is for a man and a woman to unite as a couple, and that when they do, *they are a couple for life*, with VERY few exceptions! He does say that divorce is allowable in cases of adultery and of deviant sexual practices - but not mandatory. He also mentions that in certain special cases, celibacy is preferable to marriage - where it enables one to better serve God, however Jesus is pretty clear that this is NOT mandatory either, and is not to be "the rule" but rather "the exception". There is also a VERY clear warning that NOBODY should ever come between a husband and wife in an attempt to separate them - since then they would be directly opposing God's plan for that couple and would effectively be working for the other side. As for actually divorcing a partner without "just-cause" - the warning is clearly that this person then goes on to commit adultery and that the divorced partner is made

to commit adultery too if she (or he) then marries someone else - which sounds quite scary at first if you are one of the 70% who get divorced at one time or the other in their life. However when you continue on and see what exactly Jesus means by this, and then you can *breathe a huge sigh of relief*...

**NOW** ... just in case you folks are feeling about like his disciples did upon hearing this very rigid ruling, relax, *there is hope and a way out to Heaven - which is just as well for almost every last one of us alive, women and men.*

So then, Jesus was pretty clear that "divorce without just cause" is Sin, as is adultery, same-sex marriages (relationships) and trying to *split-up* a married couple. Worse yet is the realization that most all of us have committed adultery. "WHAT ?" ... you may say ... "Never - no not me! " Yep ... it's true ! *Welcome to the club.* You see, Jesus clearly says:

### ***" Teaching about Adultery "***

**Matthew 5** <sup>27</sup>"You have heard that the law of Moses says, `Do not commit adultery.' But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust in his eye has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

YIKES !! This one really hit home when I read and understood it! And just in case you ladies think Jesus is only speaking about us guys ... think again. This applies to all your fantasies about ... well, any guy really. You see, Jesus knew that the *fantasy comes first* ... then the reality. Sooner or later you will be given the chance by Satan to act out your fantasy, *and the passion will be tangible* - as will be the price everyone ultimately pays.

**BUT** all sin (barring 1) is forgivable - even adultery, and they do not have to lead to Hell. What you need is for God to forgive the "adultery", "the affair", "the divorce" etc. so that you effectively get a clean slate and can start life anew. How do I know this ? Well besides the "old-testament" account of David and Bath-Sheba and their adulterous love-affair, let's look at Jesus' practical application of his own words and teachings from the new-testament:

## ***"A Woman Caught in Adultery"***

**Matthew 8** <sup>1</sup>Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives, <sup>2</sup>but early the next morning he was back again at the Temple. A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. <sup>3</sup>As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and Pharisees brought a woman they had caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd. <sup>4</sup>"Teacher," they said to Jesus, "this woman was caught in the very act of adultery. <sup>5</sup>The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?" <sup>6</sup>They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger.. <sup>7</sup>They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said **"All right, stone her. But let those who have never sinned throw the first stones!"** <sup>8</sup>Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust. <sup>9</sup>When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus stood up again and said to her, **"Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?"** <sup>11</sup>"No, Lord," she said. And Jesus said **"Neither do I. Go and sin no more."**

Now what is very significant about Jesus' words and actions is the last sentence. Jesus did NOT condemn this woman to Hell (though he clearly had the power to find her guilty and condemn her to Hell) and He also knew exactly *how God wanted Him to deal with her sin*. Instead he said **"Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?"** "No, Lord," she said. And Jesus said, **"Neither do I. Go and sin no more."**

So, here is a story of a " *Naughty Nun* " that ended very happily. This then is very good news for all of us ... even those smug ones who like to point to others who have gone through with the physical act of adultery, while thinking how *very pure they are*. Do make a note of Jesus' words though, **"Neither do I. Go and sin no more."** means that your adultery, affair, divorce etc, are quite forgivable by God, but you are to strive to sin no more. Nobody is perfect, and God knows we never will be perfect (after all He made us) but he does expect us to continuously improve our lives. We cannot adopt a strategy of having affairs and committing adultery and getting married and then divorced again ... and again, with brief periods of remorse and repentance interspersed



amongst it all - just enough to wipe the slate clean and thus allow for the next round of "*Shenanigans*" to begin, all the time thinking that we have a perfect "way out" at the end of it all. That is not a smart strategy ! On the other hand, just how many times will God forgive the sins of a "*Naughty Nun*" ? Well, you will be most surprised at that answer ... there is a practical example of that, but you will have to read 1 more paragraph first.

*Imagine, for a minute, what a shock it was for me:* I have spent a life-time fascinated by women (sometimes to my detriment) BUT always consciously fighting *my very strong male instincts and urges* to the point of even politely declining downright exciting and blatant advances (throughout my youth and adult life) made by gorgeous girls and ladies - often leaving them wondering what is wrong with me (*or with them*) and then I find out that I'm just as guilty as all those "*Cads*" ... you know, the ones I used to despise for being so weak and for taking advantage of you ladies ... the ones who never passed up any opportunity that came their way and even went out of their way to *engineer several opportunities where none existed* ... simply because at some point I may have momentarily entertained the thought of "*what it could have been like with \_\_\_\_*". So, I'm just as glad and relieved to hear this news as you may be, perhaps even more so. Now, I would like to meet the man or woman who genuinely never has committed adultery ... in practice or in their hearts. If any of you should know such a person, might I suggest we will gladly pay for a Polygraph test ... I think they will fail that test. So, "*Adulterers*" we all are ! Remember that the next time you are sitting listening to the "Piousness" of some priest or rabbi and their rather harsh line against "adulterers".

### ***"Jesus and the Samaritan Woman"***

**John 4** <sup>1</sup>Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, "Jesus is baptizing and making more disciples than John" <sup>2</sup>(though Jesus himself didn't baptize them--his disciples did). <sup>3</sup>So he left Judea to return to Galilee. <sup>4</sup>He had to go through Samaria on the way. <sup>5</sup>Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup>Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime. <sup>7</sup>Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her "**Please give me a drink.**" <sup>8</sup>He was alone at the time because his disciples had

gone into the village to buy some food. <sup>9</sup>The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus replied "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who I am, you would ask me, and I would give you living water." <sup>11</sup>"But sir, you don't have a rope or a bucket," she said, "and this is a very deep well. Where would you get this living water?" <sup>12</sup>And besides, are you greater than our ancestor Jacob who gave us this well? How can you offer better water than he and his sons and his cattle enjoyed?" <sup>13</sup>Jesus replied, "People soon become thirsty again after drinking this water. But the water I give them takes away thirst altogether. It becomes a perpetual spring within them, giving them eternal life." <sup>15</sup>"Please, sir," the woman said, "give me some of that water! Then I'll never be thirsty again, and I won't have to come here to haul water." <sup>1</sup> "Go and get your husband," Jesus told her. <sup>17</sup>"I don't have a husband," the woman replied. Jesus said, "You're right! You don't have a husband-- for you have had five husbands, and you aren't even married to the man you're living with now." <sup>19</sup>"Sir," the woman said, "you must be a prophet. <sup>20</sup>So tell me, why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim, where our ancestors worshiped?" <sup>21</sup>Jesus replied, "Believe me, the time is coming when it will no longer matter whether you worship the Father here or in Jerusalem. You Samaritans know so little about the one you worship, while we Jews know all about him, for salvation comes through the Jews. But the time is coming and is already here when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for anyone who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth." <sup>25</sup>The woman said, "I know the Messiah will come--the one who is called Christ. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." <sup>26</sup>Then Jesus told her "I am the Messiah!" <sup>27</sup>Just then his disciples arrived. They were astonished to find him talking to a woman, but none of them asked him why he was doing it or what they had been discussing. <sup>28</sup>The woman left her water jar beside the well and went back to the village and told everyone, <sup>29</sup>"Come and meet a man who told me everything I ever did! Can this be the Messiah?" <sup>30</sup>So the people came streaming from the village to see him. <sup>31</sup>Meanwhile, the disciples were urging Jesus to eat. <sup>32</sup>"No," he said "I have food you don't know about." <sup>33</sup>"Who brought it to him?" the disciples asked each other. <sup>34</sup>Then Jesus explained: "My nourishment comes

from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work. Do you think the work of harvesting will not begin until the summer ends four months from now? Look around you! Vast fields are ripening all around us and are ready now for the harvest. The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life. What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike! You know the saying, 'One person plants and someone else harvests.' And it's true. I sent you to harvest where you didn't plant; others had already done the work, and you will gather the harvest."

### *"Many Samaritans Believe"*

<sup>39</sup>Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, "He told me everything I ever did!" <sup>40</sup>When they came out to see him, they begged him to stay at their village. So he stayed for two days, <sup>41</sup>long enough for many of them to hear his message and believe. <sup>42</sup>Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe because we have heard him ourselves, not just because of what you told us. He is indeed the Savior of the world."

Well, this is how Jesus dealt with a woman who had been married 5 times and was currently living with a man but not married to him ... you know, "*Living in sin*". This would mean that she not only committed adultery many times but led others to do the same. She did not just get divorced once but 5 times and now was not even willing to marry the man she was living with. (By the way, God does have a major problem with a "lack of commitment" and "a lack of loyalty", whether to Him or each other!) Well now, did Jesus condemn her to Hell? Did he say "Really lady, your not even a Jew, you have been married 5 times, divorced 5 times, committed adultery scores of times, now you are living in sin with yet another guy ... there is no hope for you, just pack you bags and get ready for Hell ... you have a *one way ticket*, Ok!" Of course not! Jesus, even knowing all of these things about her, simply said to her "**If you only knew the gift God has for you and who I am, you would ask me, and I would give you living water.**" So, here was a woman who had tried to find love and fulfillment from men (5 times ... going on six) unsuccessfully, and Jesus was making the point that she was looking for unconditional love and acceptance from the wrong people and places. So how many men will it take for you to discover happiness?

The answer is "one" ... but He is not to be found amongst my contemporaries.

Again, this extreme case of a very "*Naughty Nun*" ended happily. I doubt there are many who have been as naughty as this Samaritan woman, but even so, the good news is that God has a very precious gift specifically for you: *Forgiveness and salvation*. Simply admit your guilt (you will notice she did not try and deny anything or cover her sins up - what's the point, we cannot fool God!) and ask God and Jesus for forgiveness and mercy and you will get it *and a whole new life*. *PS. I did find one fascinating contemporary of "The Samaritan woman"*.

### ***"Jesus Anointed by a Sinful Woman"***

**Luke 7** <sup>36</sup>One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to come to his home for a meal, so Jesus accepted the invitation and sat down to eat. <sup>37</sup>A certain immoral woman heard he was there and brought a beautiful jar filled with expensive perfume. <sup>38</sup>Then she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them. <sup>39</sup>When the Pharisee who was the host saw what was happening and who the woman was, he said to himself, "This proves that Jesus is no prophet. If God had really sent him, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. She's a sinner!" <sup>40</sup>Then Jesus spoke up and answered his thoughts "**Simon,**" he said to the Pharisee "**I have something to say to you.**" "All right, Teacher," Simon replied, "go ahead." <sup>41</sup>Then Jesus told him this story "**A man loaned money to two people--five hundred pieces of silver to one and fifty pieces to the other. But neither of them could repay him, so he kindly forgave them both, canceling their debts. Who do you suppose loved him more after that?**" <sup>43</sup>Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the larger debt." "**That's right,**" Jesus said. <sup>44</sup>Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, "**Look at this woman kneeling here. When I entered your home, you didn't offer me water to wash the dust from my feet, but she has washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You didn't give me a kiss of greeting, but she has kissed my feet again and again from the time I first came in. You neglected the courtesy of olive oil to anoint my head, but she has anointed my feet with rare perfume. I tell you, her sins--and they are many--have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.**" <sup>48</sup>Then Jesus said to the woman "**Your sins are forgiven.**" <sup>49</sup>The men at the table said among themselves, "Who

does this man think he is, going around forgiving sins?" <sup>50</sup>And Jesus said to the woman "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Once again, Jesus did not condemn Mary (I identified in **John 11**) to Hell. In fact, He not only forgave her sins, but declared her "Saved". Now, what must be understood clearly is that Jesus knew the things Mary had done, for He said: "I tell you, her sins--and they are many--have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love."

For Jesus to categorize Mary's sins as "many" is quite an interesting statement. First of all, let none of us fool ourselves into believing our sins are "*hidden*" from Heaven, *they are not* ! Secondly, from Heaven's perspective, *nothing's new* ... not Mary's sins or mine or yours, and for Jesus to categorize her sins as "many" signifies strongly that we were looking at a bona-fide "*Naughty Nun*" here - likely way *naughtier* than you have ever been. It is widely believed that Mary was not only a very sexually promiscuous woman, but also a prostitute. We may, for a while, be able to hide our sins from each other, but what does it really matter, since we do not have the power to forgive each other on behalf of God or condemn each other to Hell - that's clearly in *Heaven's domain*. PS. I also found a fairly good contemporary example of a "Mary Magdalene", as you will read later ...

*The part that comes next is always what truly fascinates me, for we are often expected to act in a completely different way by most of our religious leaders.*

### ***"The Death of Lazarus"***

**John 11** <sup>1</sup>A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha. <sup>2</sup>This is the Mary who poured the expensive perfume on the Lord's feet and wiped them with her hair. Her brother, Lazarus, was sick. <sup>3</sup>So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him, "Lord, the one you love is very sick." <sup>4</sup>But when Jesus heard about it he said, "Lazarus's sickness will not end in death. No, it is for the glory of God. I, the Son of God, will receive glory from this." <sup>5</sup>Although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup>he stayed where he was for the next two days and did not go to them. <sup>7</sup>Finally after two days, he said to his disciples, "Let's go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup>But his disciples objected. "Teacher," they said, "only a few days ago the Jewish leaders in

Judea were trying to kill you. Are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup>Jesus replied, "There are twelve hours of daylight every day. As long as it is light, people can walk safely. They can see because they have the light of this world. Only at night is there danger of stumbling because there is no light." <sup>11</sup>Then he said "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but now I will go and wake him up." <sup>12</sup>The disciples said, "Lord, if he is sleeping, that means he is getting better!" <sup>13</sup>They thought Jesus meant Lazarus was having a good night's rest, but Jesus meant Lazarus had died. <sup>14</sup>Then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. And for your sake, I am glad I wasn't there, because this will give you another opportunity to believe in me. Come, let's go see him." <sup>16</sup>Thomas, nicknamed the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let's go, too--and die with Jesus." <sup>17</sup>When Jesus arrived at Bethany, he was told that Lazarus had already been in his grave for four days. <sup>18</sup>Bethany was only a few miles down the road from Jerusalem, <sup>19</sup>and many of the people had come to pay their respects and console Martha and Mary on their loss. <sup>20</sup>When Martha got word that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him. But Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask." <sup>23</sup>Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup>"Yes," Martha said, "when everyone else rises, on resurrection day." <sup>25</sup>Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die like everyone else, will live again. They are given eternal life for believing in me and will never perish. Do you believe this, Martha?" <sup>27</sup>"Yes, Lord," she told him. "I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God." <sup>28</sup>Then she left him and returned to Mary. She called Mary aside from the mourners and told her, "The Teacher is here and wants to see you." <sup>29</sup>So Mary immediately went to him. <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus had stayed outside the village, at the place where Martha met him. <sup>31</sup>When the people who were at the house trying to console Mary saw her leave so hastily, they assumed she was going to Lazarus's grave to weep. So they followed her there. <sup>32</sup>When Mary arrived and saw Jesus, she fell down at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." <sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, he was moved with indignation and was deeply troubled. <sup>34</sup>"Where have you put him?" he asked them. They told him, "Lord, come and see." <sup>35</sup>Then Jesus wept. <sup>36</sup>The people who were standing nearby said, "See how much he loved him." <sup>37</sup>But some said, "This man healed a blind man. Why couldn't he keep Lazarus from dying?"

## "Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead "

<sup>38</sup>And again Jesus was deeply troubled. Then they came to the grave. It was a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance. <sup>39</sup>"Roll the stone aside," Jesus told them. But Martha, the dead man's sister, said, "Lord, by now the smell will be terrible because he has been dead for four days." <sup>40</sup>Jesus responded "Didn't I tell you that you will see God's glory if you believe?" <sup>41</sup>So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me. You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so they will believe you sent me." <sup>43</sup>Then Jesus shouted "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup>And Lazarus came out, bound in grave clothes, his face wrapped in a head cloth. Jesus told them, "Unwrap him and let him go!"

**Wow ... awesome !** Yes, it is indeed awesome that Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead ... but that's not why I said "Wow". I mean, Jesus, The Perfect Holy Son of our Perfect Holy All Powerful God hanging out with Mary and her family and counting them as His close friends - that's "*Naughty, naughty Mary*" and her family ... now that's truly awesome ! **Don't you get it yet ? God loves you so very very much ... yes, even (or maybe even especially) you ... even if you are a "Naughty Nun" ... but** you must act like Mary did - with a contrite heart and soul. Humble yourself before Jesus and God and all of Heaven. Admit your humanity. Stop any self-deprecating and damaging behavior, turn your life around ... turn all your needs and hurts and guilt over to Jesus and to God. Just simply pour out your soul to them ... they will hear you and welcome you ...why wait? *Do it now... and start a brand new exciting, fulfilling and truly loving life.*

There you have it ... the basic foundation of what we need to know about Sex and Sexuality. Just like our God-given appetites for food, plenty of food, good food and tasty food ... our sexual appetites are quite strong, even ravenous at times, very few of us genuinely enjoy "restrictive diets", and we do regard Anorexia and habitual overindulgence as "unhealthy". Staying healthy, trim and content, means that we ought to watch carefully how much, what, where and how we eat. So too it is with sex. Abstinence or promiscuity are not normal. We all are subject to it's very strong appeal, but it need not be reason enough

to send us off to Hell or to distance us from **the Love of God !**



*So, why would we want to risk the **wrath of most religious establishments that so clearly want to "Demonize" Sex ... by talking so openly about SEX?***

Well, **Guilt** almost always prevents people from living full and rewarding lives. Many times it actually stands in the way of people wanting to get to know God and Jesus and work for Heaven's cause ... many feel "What's the point, I'm Hell bound anyway, I've committed adultery" ... or something like that. Well we just want to assure you ... nothing could be further from the truth, and we there are many great examples of Bible ladies (some of whom you have already read about) that will *shoot down those fears of yours*, and hopefully set you free from guilt and start you on the road to recovery so that you can live a full and happy life - with God at the very center of your life and you and your loved ones bound for Heaven !

You know, personally I have always been fascinated by "*Naughty Nuns*" - their passion for love and life as well as their passionately held (but not always correct) beliefs are very attractive qualities. I get very bored by people who cannot show passion for anything. I have met and hung-out with many a "*Naughty Nun*" in my short but blessedly un-boring life. I love the *twinkle* in their eyes ... their *mischievous* smile ... their *energy* for life (and for love) that they exude. I have found that they mostly do respect me for keeping my own passions in check and still wanting to be their friend anyhow, but some do really wonder if they have "*lost their powers*". They have not, I just do not wish to render my whole life and mission meaningless for a momentary dalliance. All the same, I was so very gratified to read how Jesus also found "*Naughty Nuns*" such worthy company ... as you've read, above, by Him counting Mary, Martha and Lazarus amongst His dearest friends. As a result, all those so called religious folks who *look down their noses at me and others* for having any dealings with the "*Naughty Nuns*" of the world, just are not able to upset me anymore. In fact, I pity them and think how *very un-like Jesus they have become*, when what we should be doing is striving to become more like Him. I have a challenge for them: "*Set your piety, pride and perfection aside for a while to become human again ... and associate freely with all your fellow sinners too - not just yourself and those in your family or church - you know, the way Jesus did. You will find that we ALL fall far short of the mark when it comes to Heaven's standards for perfection, and that we are all in this together.*"



So, what qualifies us to talk with you on any of these issues ? Simply put, we care. This is for us is quite literally a "*labor of love*". In our early 40's we walked away from a very lucrative life, in the computer industry, to start a *rather different kind of a ministerial mission* : non-denominational, self-funded with no membership asked for or required and totally anonymous. Thus *there is nothing to gain for us in you pleasing God ... and nothing for us to lose either*. The gains and losses are entirely yours ! We have already done what is required to secure our own and our family's salvation, and we could just have gone on with our lives and ignored any other confused and hurting souls out there, and remember, we have been there too. We are moved by people's guilt and the resulting pain, and thus we decided that, as one little family, we would do our level best to do something about it all, with God's inspiration and help.

### Has God inspired and helped us in our quest ?

Well, think on this: In high school I was the one 'voted' (by my English teacher) to be "the one" of his students least likely to ever write anything with emotional content or that would move anyone to anything other than complete boredom. And so it stayed for many years. Now throw in the fact that for all of my ancestors, English was a foreign language that most had and still do have trouble speaking. After I became a Christian at age 37, I began to write ... and found there had been a complete transformation in my ability to express myself with the written word and in my writing style, as well - *I suddenly now saw things in a very different light*. This is all most unusual - to say the least!

As a direct result, besides "*The Naughty Nun*" we do have something very unique to offer you ... our own love's story, the story of our love and struggles. It's a rather unusual story and pretty precious to us really, so sharing it openly presented a bit of a personal tussle. My wife and I talked about this at some length and decided that rather than just simply "shutting-up" about personal (even very personal) things that have happened in our lives, we would tell others about them in a candid and (hopefully) classy manner - in an effort to help others also struggling with Love, spirituality, sex, lust, friendship, family relationships ... pretty much adult life in general. This can be found at [www.Jenny.ws](http://www.Jenny.ws) We also decided, though we own a publishing company, to make it freely available for others to read, because that is how the Good Lord gave

this love story to us ... freely. So what is (somewhat) unique about our love's story ? Well, for starters, while being at least every bit as *hot-blooded* as anyone else, even from a very early age, now in 2003 at 47 and 46 respectively, we are still each other's only lover - ever. We have known each other for almost 32 years now, so you may assume we were childhood sweethearts. Well, in a way we were. Did we date others ? Yes ... many. Were we ever tempted by and/or with others and have we ever struggled with lust and temptation ? Honestly ... Yes, both in our youth and in our adult lives, and this is perfectly normal, just part of life really. So how do we stop from straying ? Well, the obvious example of my grandfather's fatal error and it's sad consequences, plus our genuine love, care and concern for each other (and for the other people concerned) as well as our fear of offending God, have always enabled us to managed to veto our temptations, though obviously this is not a subject that *one sentence can do justice to*. Do we think this will ever change ? Well, simply put we pray that it does not. Until now, with God's Love, guidance and blessing, our love, friendship, loyalty and a fear of God has prevailed, as has our concern for our family's survival - and will pray it will continue to do so. Does this all then make us any "better than" you, or anyone else ? Heck No ... though it does make us somewhat unusual nowadays and a bit of an endangered species really. It also means that we have one less thing to make us feel guilty, making it substantially easier to concentrate on the mission God has given us.



**You know, we can sincerely tell you one thing from personal experiences and observations:**

Great Sex is a wonderful side effect of Great Love and rightfully should result in no guilt - but sometimes does anyway. However we have noticed that the reverse is seldom true: **Sex, even Great Sex, does not usually result in Great Love (let alone any Love) and very often results in plenty of Guilt - which nowadays is very effectively temporarily suppressed, but which always returns, at some point, to haunt people's lives and does limit, often severely, their happiness. Substituting SEX for LOVE does not work ... don't confuse the two.**

So really, the choice is yours ... why not hold out for "Great Love", "Epic love", "Legendary love"? If you do, you likely will soon be enjoying Great Sex as well !

## All the facts we are placing before you should show you that:

**Firstly**, it is possible for you to stop any damaging behaviors and enjoy a very fulfilling love life (and a great sex life, by the way) that pleases God and yourselves - fully! (*Near the end, are some real-life examples showing this.*)

**Secondly**, and more importantly, NOTHING you have ever done, involving SEX, can separate you from the Love of God - if only you ask for and accept His forgiveness, Love, redemption and salvation. (*Keep reading ... some very famous women concur fully, and they sure did push the limits in testing this theory!*)

Sex can be much more addictive than smoking or drug use. It is often used as a narcotic by people to deal with other problems in their lives - most all of which are emotional and/or spiritual. People substitute sex for many personal needs, but as with a crutch, it can at best only help you *limp along* when what you really need is *to be able to walk freely, confidently and enjoyably*. It's allure is so powerful that overcoming the urge to engage in inappropriate sexual activities is very often tougher than quitting smoking or kicking a drug habit. But, what's not possible for us as humans, is possible for us with God's help. Does this mean NO SEX? Heck no! Just no *inappropriate sex*.

Now this is where we may be of some help to you. You see, not understanding what is "appropriate" and "inappropriate" is what leads to **guilt**, and guilt very effectively stands in the way of true happiness and success - in almost every aspect of one's life. We are going to try to clear up misunderstandings. We want to make sure, as best we can, that you do not suffer inappropriate guilt, and that you do understand that guilt is sometimes appropriate - but even then there is a very effective way to deal with any guilt you may be laboring under!

No, inappropriate Sex is NOT the worst sin, though it often is made to seem that way. It is way down on the list actually - in fact it is well below even PRIDE, and that is what those many preachers, pastors, priests, ministers, reverends, bishops, rabbis etc. display a lot of ... when looking down their noses at you ... *for being human*. Perhaps in the future we will try to deal with these matters in a more comprehensive manner, but in the meanwhile, just trust us when we tell you that NO sex-sin can ever stop you from achieving God's mercy and His forgiveness - BUT "fessing up to your sins" privately - to God

and/or Jesus, is essential ! You cannot just simply overlook them - neither will God ...BUT He will forgive them - *when genuinely asked to do so*.

We know, since so many of us can say: " **We have been there and done that** ".

So, a case can be made that Jesus did not feel very driven to speak out on intimate sexual matters ... though on relationships He was quite outspoken !

He strongly disapproved of divorce, but then did not condemn people to Hell for being divorced. What a relief that is, since some 2/3 rd's of humanity would be in serious trouble if divorce were the unforgivable sin. So, don't panic, but reflect on the fact that divorce hurts many people, including you.

He only spoke of marriage as being possible between a Man and a woman, and did not endorse a sex-life outside of a committed relationship. He mentioned that Adultery consisted not of just a physical sexual act, but of fantasy too, and so He warned against the dangers of lustful thoughts - since these could so easily lead to adultery and divorce, both of which are clearly sin.

What is really important to realize is that, in so doing, Jesus rendered the MOSAIC laws on Divorce and Adultery as listed in Leviticus, and passed off by religious leaders as the laws of God, null and void. Under theses laws any adulterer must be stoned to death and divorce is a simple matter of serving one's wife with divorce papers - at the man's discretion, but not the women's. Jesus made very sure people understood that God is a merciful God and did not condone others judging and sentencing two sinners to death for adultery, and that a man divorcing his wife by serving her with paperwork does not absolve him from any commitment of marriage ! Jesus refuted both, as well, by the way, as any laws on what food can be eaten. So then, it would appear that God's own Son was sent to set the record straight about laws that were clearly drawn up by men and then *passed off as God's laws*, presumably to give them some legitimacy. It is highly probable then that these laws did not come into being as *a clear revelation from God*, as did the "10 commandments", but rather just like our many (sometimes strange) laws come about today ... some legislators drew them up. So, it is then very tough to use **Leviticus** in any meaningful way regarding these things, even though some of it may make sense. As my son says: "Dad, if one cannot deduce any laws mentioned in the Bible

from either the "10 Commandments" or from Jesus' teachings, then would seem that some man must have made them up" ... and I tend to agree with him. This is why I encourage you to pray and ask for truth, wisdom and guidance on all matters directly from God and Jesus, relying only on the Holy Spirit, who lives within each of us believers, since They will not lie to you, while all of us people often get things wrong. God gave us the 10 Commandments and Jesus gave them their "Full meaning" and declared ALL of them "VALID and BINDING". Laws regarding all sorts of strange things such as Diet, Sex, Burnt Offerings and scores of other things were often not validated by Jesus, but refuted.

Now, Jesus mildly chastised the Samaritan woman for being married and divorced several times and living with a man ... without any commitment, but then promptly offered her salvation and a whole new fulfilling and meaningful life. You know, the good news is that this offer still holds ... for you and all of us ! Many people would have us believe that having been married, then getting divorced, is a "SHOW STOPPER". Well if it is, Jesus wasn't rushing to condemn this Samaritan woman to Hell for doing so, not just once ... but 5 times ! What is more, this woman went on to Live with a 6<sup>th</sup> man, probably because by then she was a little unsure about marriage ... but even so, Jesus wasn't condemning her to Hell, just suggesting that it was not fair to the man she was living with to do so without a firm commitment of marriage. He did not say " You cannot get married to him, for you are a divorcée ", He was suggesting *she should*.

He acknowledged the *many sins* of Mary, a sexually promiscuous woman, but noted that she honestly regretted her lifestyle and sought forgiveness, thus He refused to condemn her for any of her sexual sins instead opting to lift the burden of guilt off of her, and then He went on to become good friends with her, her sister and her brother ... clearly a strong sign that though we offend God with sin of any kind - including sexual sin, God does not hold these over us indefinitely (the way we humans tend to do) but rather God is quick to forgive any sexual sins - as He forgives any other sins we repent of.

He agreed that the woman brought before Him for condemnation by the religious leaders (for being caught in bed with a man in the act of committing adultery) was sinning ... but pointed out to her accusers - all of them men, that they were too, and that this sin of hers was no more heinous than any sin that they had ever committed, even the non-sexual ones !

He made it abundantly clear that sexual sin was not an especially heinous form of sin – just plain old sin, and that no sexual sins could ever come between any person committing them and Heaven ... if that person would simply repent of those sins and ask God for forgiveness. He never once withheld forgiveness and salvation from anyone guilty of sexual sins. He was, however, fiercely vocal on the subject of anyone leading children into sin or harming them in any way! Considering his words on this subject, it is very clear that anyone preying upon children have a lot to answer for ... to God, and He certainly did not sugar-coat that warning ! These are sexual sins that are considered very serious by God !

He indicated that celibacy was not wrong but also not required to serve God.

He did not even mention contraception, masturbation, individual sexual acts and practices between a loving committed couple (those technically “married” with or without paperwork) or sexual venues, frequency of sex, clothing or lack thereof, though He did warn that we are to make nothing more important than God in our lives, since that would really be idolatry – but then that goes for money, food, clothing, possessions as well as for our sex lives !

So then, if an individual wants to match Jesus' expectations, of them concerning their sex-life, then he/she will have to fall back on these specific examples given above and also on His general ethical teachings for living:

To treat and value one's neighbor as one would wish to be treated. Not to be exploitive, dominating, manipulative, controlling, violent, selfish or abusive towards others, and, above all, to not abuse children or lead them into sin.

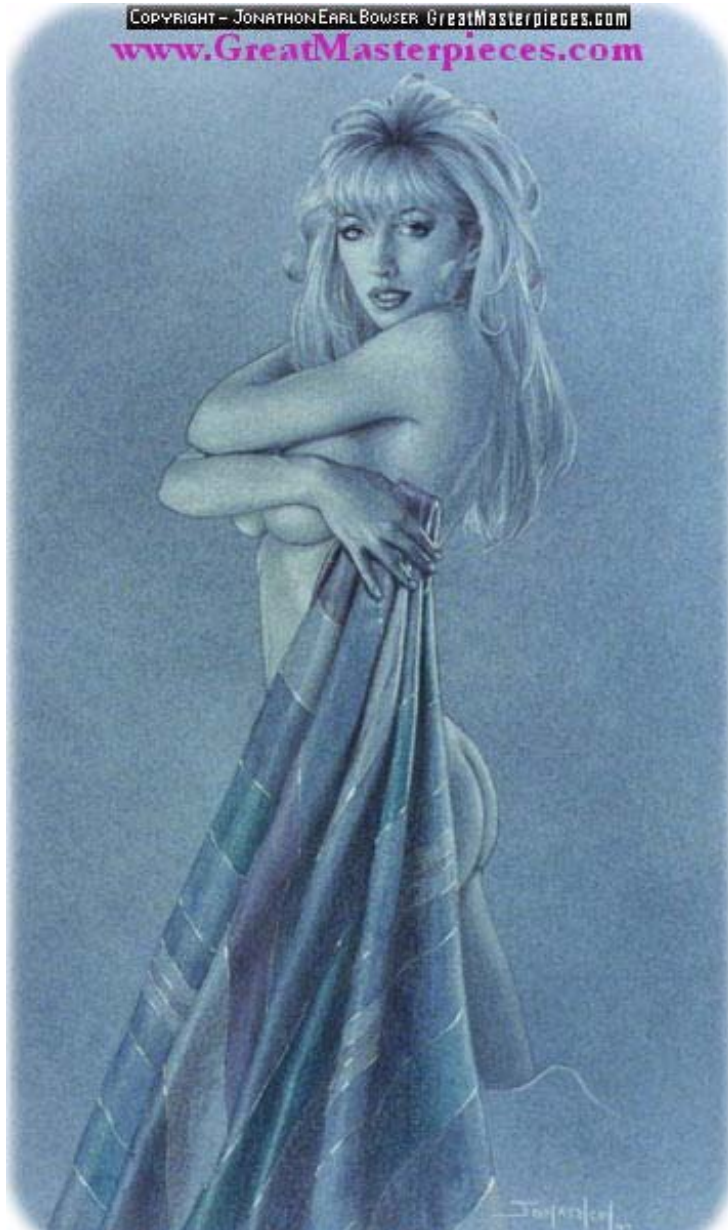
**PS. Now we are just about ready to start applying this methodology ...**

Important: Again, please note that it would be most unusual if you, me (or anyone else) have done *none of the “naughty things”* that I am going to mention in the Chapter following (below) ... but it would be just as unusual if you , me (or anyone else) has done *all of the things* I will be mentioning. Also, when you are reading this chapter, please do not be offended when you encounter the word “You”, since I do not really mean *you personally*, and besides, if something *doesn't apply to you*, then obviously it just makes for interesting reading ... but perhaps you do know someone that it may help ?

# SO, you just love SEX ... but feel a little guilty at times ?

Well, welcome to the club ... the one with the most members on earth !

This particular section probably will be viewed as quite controversial because



we *dare to discuss* individual sex-acts quite explicitly in a Christian context. Many "religious" people are indeed shocked by our candor, but to them I say: "By insinuation you people also mention these things, seemingly all the time, only you almost always do so judgmentally and negatively, and constantly damn people to hell over them ... when that is clearly God's prerogative to do so, not yours! " **But**, I do concede that though Jesus did teach us all a methodology for dealing with sexual matters (and others) as documented in the new Testament, God's Holy Spirit within each believer that Jesus alluded to, must be the ultimate advisor on all such matters, not any of us humans, men or women, priests, lay persons, friends, siblings, Moms or Dads, or me. So, I do advise you to PRAY earnestly and to ask God and Jesus for any "specific

rulings" on any of the things you tend to worry about. They will answer you.

You may want to skip over the next page if you wince at the word "SEX"

## Ok, so, maybe some of you suffer from guilt over:

Falling pregnant out of wedlock, indulging in pre-marital sex, prostitution, working in the porno-industry, adultery, homosexuality, group-sex, being sexually abused as a child, being raped, being divorced, living with someone "without a license", having had multiple sexual partners, masturbation, incest, raunchy sex with your husband, raunchy sex with your husband and another person or persons, very raunchy sex with your husband, any sexual position or setting or practice you can imagine with your husband, using sex-toys during raunchy sex with your husband, sex several times a day with your husband, no sex with your husband, oral-sex with your husband, oral sex with a President (or someone else), pre-marital sex without any intent to marry, pre-marital sex with your fiancé, "heavy petting", kissing before marriage, kissing after marriage, French-kissing, allowing your fiancé to "admire or fondle" your breasts (and maybe even all of you), allowing your boyfriend to fondle your breasts, making-out in a semi-public place, sexual fantasies, going topless on the beach, flirting "with intent" to have sex, flirting "without intent" to have sex, having a high-risk encounter at the office, surprising your husband wearing just your diamond pendant and engagement ring, surprising your fiancé (or boyfriend) wearing just your engagement ring, having love affairs, doing your best to start a love affair, dreaming about having a love affair, wondering what it must be like to have a love affair, being unfaithful to your boyfriend, being unfaithful to your fiancé, using sex to trap a man into marriage, having sex the morning of your wedding (with your fiancé), having sex the night before your wedding (without your fiancé), teasing a man with yourself till he begs for mercy, being a female "Georgie-porgie", sex with contraceptives, sex without contraceptives, total abstinence from sex, periodic abstinence from sex, sex in the dark, sex in the light, sex in the shower/bath, sex at/above 35,000 feet, sex on a passenger train, sex at sea in a cruise ship/yacht/dinghy/canoe, sex in the back seat of a car, sex on the beach, sex in a forest, sex in a motel/hotel, sex in the White-house, sex in a palace ... and the list goes on and on - oh yes, I almost forget that old religious stalwart: *"Sex once a year, in bed in your bedroom with the lights off, the curtains drawn, with your husband, both of you wearing flannel PJ's - in the "missionary" position, eyes firmly closed, no kissing, talking or moaning, no emphasis on orgasm and certainly no multiple orgasms - and then all of this*



*ONLY to conceive*" ... Well, like recipes for favorite dishes, there seems to be an endless combination of sexual acts, exploits, settings and partners, but, as my dad (the retired Dr.) likes to say: "Ten toes up and ten toes down, Sex ... it's the oldest game in town". So, do you just eat white bread and drink tap water every day ? Do you just eat to barely stay alive ? Does eating Steak, Lobster, Chocolate, Cheesecake, Pizza etc. also make you feel guilty ?



Well, while the "*old religious stalwart*" is not directly a sin, it's declared (by St. Paul) to often lead to sin and to be just plain stupid. Besides, the "no emphasis on orgasms and no multiple orgasms" clause is just plain selfish and mean - and that is a sin. What do people think ... that God made a mistake when he gave us a strong desire for sex ? Well, *God does not make mistakes, but people often do !* God does intend us to enjoy our sexuality ... appropriately !

As for all the places one can have sex, *it's not where you are*, but with whom



you are - of course, a public display is not good either. For instance, sex in an office with someone other than your wife is adultery and sex in your office with your wife and with people in neighboring buildings getting a *grand-stand view* is "*Leading them into temptation*". Now, a certain president should have kept all this in mind, since sex in the Whitehouse is OK, as long as it's with "Mrs. President". Anyhow, to his credit, he did finally *fess-up* that he had "*sinned*". By the way, I often think that the whole "publicity drive" surrounding *Mr. President* was (in part) to *get even* for all the publicity afforded some television preachers who did much the same things.

Well, sex with or without contraceptives is just not even mentioned by Jesus. He was clearly more concerned that we do not have *illicit* sexual relationships leading to family break-up, self-esteem problems or paralyzing guilt than with the kind of sex or the places we choose to have sex or whether we use contraceptives or not. I guess some of us can be thankful that our parents felt guilty about using contraceptives, refrained from using them or maybe even forgot to use them ... else we may not be here. I suspect very many of us owe our lives to their guilt or passionate oversight !



As for abstinence issues ... ironically that could well be a sin, if done without mutual agreement and/or for more than just a short while (to dedicate time for prayer). *So, that's quaint*, "No sex" is a sin. Go figure ... and we are always told the opposite. Makes one think ? Personally, I'm still waiting for the sermon on "No Sex, or Not enough Sex is a sin". I suspect that pastor/priest will be fired pretty fast by their church board. Ironically, St. Paul wasn't ! So I guess the founders of Christianity were more open minded than our churches are today ? But I guess today we are right and they were wrong ...



The flirting and "*Kiss all the boys and make them cry*" ones can be sins, but for more than just the obvious reasons. If you are turning other people's lives *upside down and inside out* - causing them tremendous pain in the process, then that's what is wrong ! If you are doing this so as to "Get Revenge", that's understandable - but wrong, and if you are doing this to "Satisfy your ego or your need to be loved and adored", that's quite understandable too - but misguided. Flirting may seem to be innocent, but it often leads to action and at the very least it can lead to hurt - both are wrong. Jesus did say clearly that even thinking about committing adultery is the same as actually committing it. *Flirting is that intermediate step between fantasy and reality* - kind of like testing out your powers to enthrall men. So it stands to reason that *if thinking about it is bad*, then so is flirting as is "*doing it*".



Ok, so on to the *Wedding* scenes. Making out with your fiancé or boyfriend before the wedding ceremony - whether *the "morning of"* or weeks / months ahead of time is no sin, it just means that you have moved-up the date and time of your actual nuptials a little. You see, God knows when and where you were married. Standing up in that lovely white dress in front of family and friends, pledging your vows, exchanging rings, signing the registry and kissing is all very nice - but God does not require it, we humans do. Besides, with very few exceptions, you have likely long since made it known to

everyone that you love each other, that you intend to be a couple, you have exchanged rings and they may have even seen you kiss. So the only thing you may not have done is sign the registry, pay the priest and possibly you may not have worn a white dress ? If doing it all "traditionally" gave any couple a "lasting edge" - it sure as heck isn't showing up in any of the statistics that I see. After much observation - initiated first by envy and then by sheer curiosity, I noticed a "law" of weddings: It seems that "*The length and quality of a marriage is inversely proportional to the size and cost of the wedding*".



Now, as for all those "Sex with someone other than your betrothed" incidents, they are clearly wrong, though some more serious than others. One comes across a few intriguing stories when listening up on *matters sexual*. I heard a man recall (with contempt) how he was at his cousin's wedding and dancing with the bride - who was intent on making him "*Just one of the Lucky ones that night*". She was a "*Naughty nun*" ... there was much more evidence to suggest that ! Her life ended up in quite a mess, but as she aged, she seemed to have turned her life around. I've certainly met many more men like her, though they often get patted on the back by their chums who listen to their stories with "great interest" over a beer, and they are most often elevated to "Hero" status, while the women doing similar things are downgraded to "Harlot" status, but in Bible times they stoned women to death for being "Naughty Nuns". I guess, once you are married or betrothed, it's more of a problem (being unfaithful) than if you are dating, since once married you are committing adultery as well as hurting a lot of people and being selfish. When you are dating, you are hurting someone and being selfish but technically not committing adultery. "Sin is sin" ... Jesus made that clear, *but lots of sins are more of a problem than fewer sins*. i.e. 1 sin leaves you with 1 thing to be sorry about and feel guilt over while 10 sins leave you struggling a lot with guilt and take a longer time to *work through*. It is important to note that any sin *admitted to Jesus and God and repented of*, is really no sin at all - since it has been forgiven and is thus *stricken from any records in Heaven* - though not always down here on earth. God and Jesus have the ability to forgive your sins ... we as humans cannot do so on behalf of

Heaven ... though often religious officials would have you believe they have a license to do this too. NOT! You only have to talk to God and Jesus about your sins being forgiven in Heaven. Consider this: If I had the ability to forgive sins *I'd be having fun and forgiving myself all day long* - so you see why only God and Jesus can forgive sin ? Perhaps some priests mistakenly think they have this ability ? This would explain why a few of them do some of the rather "bad" things *we are not to do*.



So how about "Using *Sex to trap someone into marriage*"? Well, marriage should be by mutual consent - with both parties in FULL agreement over how they feel about each other and on their level of commitment to each other. After all, marriage is intended to be a mutually agreed upon partnership for life. The tradition, in some cultures, of arranged marriages and "brokered brides" is really a lot more akin to a business deal than a free choice to love and to be loved, and is quite ridiculous, but then again so is a hastily entered into agreement between seemingly consenting parties, which is quite likely just the result of raging hormones clouding sober commonsense. A person wanting someone badly and using his or her sexuality to ensnare the other person is really more akin to *covetousness* than it is to love, and anyway it also very rarely works long-term. If You want to be with him and he wants to be with you, then your relationship has a far better chance of lasting than if just you want to be with him or he with you. That's just plain old commonsense. Since we are talking (presumably) about an entire lifetime here, it really makes sense to do your homework well and allow some time to let him/her prove their level of commitment. I always thought my wife took this advise too much to heart ... but she insists that she wanted to know if I would stick around during the tough times too and not just the fun times. She simply was not interested in anyone who would live with her only while she was in her prime and take off to be with someone else later - thus wasting (maybe even trashing) her life. I cannot fault that reasoning - though the testing time was a little long and the tests quite severe. However, the 8 years we knew each other before we were officially married is much less than

the 32 years we have now known each other, and I did stick around through some very tough times when most men would not have. So, this is good advise to follow - and really, what's the rush? The alternative to choosing your mate wisely is a *life-sentence* in which the only possibility of parole is "Death" or "Divorce" - neither of which is a pleasant prospect ! Just remember, you will wake up next to him (or her, if you are a man) for the rest of your life !

## Exodus 20 - "The Ten Commandments"

(Listed here for very good academic reasons)

- [1] Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
- [2] Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.
- [3] Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.
- [4] Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.
- [5] Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.
- [6] Thou shalt not kill.
- [7] Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- [8] Thou shalt not steal.
- [9] Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
- [10] Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's.



This brings me to that "**Crown-jewel**" of *sexual sins*, the "**Love-affair**". How can something so intriguing, exciting and alluring (and plain old addictive) be so wrong? Well, ever think of all the other people that are inevitably going to get hurt? Even perhaps the other participant in the affair? Well, it's sure nice to know that someone else other than your husband (or wife) loves and desires you so much and, of course, all that sneaking around sure does add considerable adventure into a life more often spent carrying a new bag of potato chips and a beer to your husband sitting in front of the TV (in his vest) watching yet another football

game - and totally ignoring you, but that does not make it right - just enjoyable. Isn't it strange how so many enjoyable things are wrong? It kind of seems "*unfair*" *doesn't it?* Well, it's not the enjoyment that's wrong - it's the enjoyment at other people's expense that is wrong. You see it's kind of flattering that someone else would break so many of God's commandments for "*Little old you*" and the excitement is likely directly proportional to the number and magnitude of the sins ... and in the case of "The Affair" - quite a few of the above commandments are broken.



You see, besides *adultery*, the love-affair revolves around fulfilling *selfish* needs and knowing others are going to be (or could be) *very badly hurt* - but throwing all caution to the wind and doing it anyhow. Since one can likely be accused of "idolizing" the other participant in "the affair" (and maybe even oneself) as well as likely even sneaking around with him/her on *Sunday*, bringing dishonor to our parents, maybe provoking murder or murderous thoughts (It happens, think of King David) in someone directly or indirectly involved in "*the affair*" - also stealing someone's partner,

bearing false witness (lying), coveting what is not ours and maybe even using God's name in vain to exclaim out loud "*How great all this is*" - do you realize

that 9 out of the 10 commandments of God have been broken ... and some may argue that even the remaining one has been broken, since clearly this is NOT loving God first and foremost. Little wonder then why "the Affair" is seen as so very alluring and exciting - it's Satan's *super-jackpot* of rebellious behavior towards God .. the ultimate, (bar 1 sin - the unforgivable sin), in sinning ! As well as *betrayal* and *a total disregard for God's will* for your life and that of your family, considering all of these "infringements" makes one realize pretty quickly why "*the affair*" is not something to be involved in at any level - even in your fantasies, which often leads to reality anyhow. It is like *walking in a mine-field*, with explosions going off all around you and the adrenalin rushing through your veins. Just don't do it, and if you have - tell God (and everyone else you have hurt, if they know about it) how *very sorry you are*, and ask for their forgiveness and just don't do it again - also ask Jesus for help in abstaining.



This brings me to another observational law: "*The level of excitement of any sexual sin is directly proportional to its severity (the number of God's commandments that are infringed by committing it) ... as is its enjoyment and addictiveness*". "Love affairs" can be so very addictive that one affair is never enough, and pretty soon your whole life is

revolving around getting others to validate you and make you feel desirable and good about yourself and your life. Often times, we feel great about ourselves if we can "*turn the head*" of someone else's husband (or wife) away from them and towards noticing us. Now that's a blatant attempt to get someone else to validate us. Have you ever stopped to think that we are here on earth for God to validate us - not each other? It matters little what other people, even "*important people*", think of you - but it does matter what God thinks of you! *To get God to validate your parking spot for Heaven, be carefully where you "shop" and what you buy when you are "shopping" here on earth!*

*It's really best, for all involved, for you to do your "shopping" at home!*



Now, my wife and I do know a little about this sin ... since in a way, our love and life together started as the result of "*an affair*" - but not quite like "affairs" that you would normally imagine. You will have to read the story I wrote, about our love for each other, to figure out what exactly did happen, but *we both do understand, well, "The power of the Affair"!*

Just remember that there are many examples in the bible of people having "Love-affairs" and being forgiven by God (and by Jesus) and going on to live very blessed lives. This one is BIG, but it is NOT the unforgivable sin!

Ok, so we could spend quite some time talking about the individual sex- acts listed above, but once again, *it is important to note that Jesus did not do so.* He did strongly emphasize loyalty in marriage - living up to promises made, but then He emphasized loyalty in our relationship with God, Heaven and Him too! So, I have to assume that whatever happens between two mutually consenting adults within the confines of a stable loving relationship where there is no intent by one or the other (or both) people to break any commitments to the other (or each other) is OK - and that includes oral sex and every other act and/or position that is freely and mutually consented to. By all means have fun!



The "clothing optional" items are only a problem if they lead others into temptation, else we are only guilty of wearing the clothes God gave us - our "Birthday suits".

As for the *flirting ones* - flirt with your marriage partner, there is nothing wrong with that. Surprising your husband wearing only your engagement ring is rather nostalgic, but not a sin.

The fantasy thing can be a sin, but need not be. Just simply substitute your marriage partner in your fantasy, which means you may stop having them altogether - but hey, "*them's the breaks*".

Allowing your fiancé to admire your body is like going down to the Jewelers, occasionally, to look at that lovely ring you have on layaway, but it's not a sin. By the way, it's perfectly OK to keep doing this after the wedding ceremony!





Now I come to the part that always amazes me and I find truly astonishing. *Believe it or not*, there are those who believe that kissing before marriage is a sin and that French-kissing (*you know ... passionate smooching*) even after marriage is not only plain old disgusting but also sinful. Imagine some pastors preaching that this is "foreplay" ... and some people actually believe them ! I'm sure glad I didn't meet any of those girls when I was dating ! Well now, remember when I suggested that you audition (carefully) your future partner to uncover strange behavior and quirks that you may not want to live with - my advise to you is do so before you marry and if they display these kinds of quirks ... run for the hills ! It's tough to imagine "no passionate kissing". These folks deserve to remain bachelors and spinsters.



As to pre-marital Sex and heavy petting and etc. - it seems to me that it does matter what you do, with whom, under what circumstances and at what age this all occurs. Many churches like to call this "Fornication", but I have to tell you, I cannot say I agree with them. Here is my reasoning ... see if you agree:

So what exactly is the basis for defining "fornication" as meaning any and all sex before marriage? The original Greek terms ("perneu", "porneia") which were translated into "fornication" had to do with prostitution and frequenting a prostitute. In fact, the root of these terms was a commercial term meaning "to export for sale or gain" (e.g. to sell one's body). These terms, at times, were stretched to sometimes mean "egregiously promiscuous sex", or even idolatry (which makes sense given the sex cults where prostitution was rampant), but I can't see how they ever were intended to refer to all forms of premarital sexual activity. In fact, until this century, dictionaries often defined "fornication" as excessively promiscuous sex, not as any and all sex before marriage. The Latin term to which the Greek term for fornication was translated, "fornicare", from which we get our present term, was based on the Latin figure of the L-shaped fornix, which referred to an L-shaped mall in which prostitutes hung out in Rome. Again, the early understanding was that fornication referred to prostitution

and, at best, acting like a prostitute through excessively promiscuous sex. But, now for the clincher: Jesus said: **"And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery."** Matthew 19:9 (Note: Even under the above conditions, divorce is optional ... not mandatory)

OK, so how exactly does a married person then commit this sin called "Fornication", which some would have us believe, refers to all sex before marriage? Jesus knew exactly what He was saying, It is sexual activities that endanger "the family", "the relationship" and which are considered "a breach of loyalty", which He was referring to, like adultery, frequenting or behaving like prostitutes, engaging in excessively promiscuous sexual activity etc.

Subsequent to this realization, I simply cannot see how two people who see each other exclusively and are in love with one another, and who engage in sexual activity before (society's concept of) "a legal marriage", can appropriately be judged to be engaging in "fornication" - though there are many that would vehemently disagree with me on this subject.

All the same, I do believe that it matters if there is no intent to commit to each other and, quite frankly most all sexual activity before "any serious commitment" can generally be just plain old dangerous under most circumstances, both emotionally and physically. We do not let our children just get into a car and drive out onto the freeway ... and trust me, all these things are no less dangerous in their potential to harm other people and change lives. Yet, if we are talking about these things happening between two mutually consenting adults, then they are substantially different in their potential to cause mayhem in people's lives than if we are talking about two 13 year olds.

If you are still considered "a child", then I simply encourage you not to do any of these things, since one thing leads to another and pretty soon you are one crazy mixed-up adult - or one whose life is now very different to what it could have been. However, I do understand that I cannot convince any person - adult, child (*or even myself*), never to sin, so I do encourage you to familiarize yourself with condoms in case you do ever give in to temptation. That's why we use airbags, seatbelts and have "good rubber" on the wheels of our cars before venturing out onto the roads. This way the consequences of our sins are kept to a minimum, though do not be mistaken, you still will have to face up to the fact that you have sinned - before God, that is, not before me or any others.

You know, it's very tough to stop sexual activity once you have started and, anyway, you will appreciate it much more when you are emotionally ready and less when you get started too young ... and end up spoiling something that can be and should be so very special. It's simply a good idea not to get started too young – but really, it's less about age than it is about one's maturity. So then, how old/mature is “old/mature enough” ? The way I would answer that is:

We are old enough when we no longer trivialize intimate relationships as something to brag to others about as “conquests” and when we no longer use these relationships to boost our self-esteem and to derive selfish pleasures. When we can regard an intimate relationship as something very special ... when we fully appreciate that the emotions, happiness, dreams and life of another person are “wrapped-up” with us too, then, perhaps we are emotionally mature.

By these standards, some people are “adults” at 16 while others are still “children” at 60. Hmmm ... imagine telling a 40 year old man/woman that they are not ready for an intimate sexual relationship yet? Well, quite frankly, some are not ... they just think they are, but they act like young kids let loose in a candy store with lots of money (and freedom) to buy and eat all the candy they desire ... with the same end result – discomfort and pain! Now then, if you are adults, do ask each other what you expect from this relationship, *and please ... answer honestly*. As a result, you may not proceed, but if you do, this then becomes a matter between the two of you ... and God. So, if you are still worried or plagued by “the guilties”, then I strongly suggest you ask God for guidance ... not me, since if you do this, you are just as wise (or wiser) than me.

I have to tell you, quite candidly, that I have conducted much “soul searching” and many “thought experiments” on this subject - for a variety of personal reasons. Firstly, I did notice that Jesus just does not ever mention anything about sexuality before marriage – only after marriage ! Secondly, I had to re-examine my own actions from my youth. You see I romanced many gorgeous ladies before getting engaged to my wife – and I have to admit that I enjoyed it thoroughly ! While dating I often “cheated” on them, and they just as often “cheated” on me. In fact, my wife and I participated (by some people's standards) in a very passionate, persistent and long-running “secret love-affair” *while we were seriously dating others*, and ended up only getting married 8 years later. I have to tell you that as a result I can understand the

very powerful allure of "the affair" and also why, quite often, people never want to leave "*the dating mode*". Ok, so necking, and passionate smooching (French kissing) and romance with all of my teenage girlfriends (including my wife) was not considered adultery, a sin (except by a few "fanatics") or even discouraged ? BUT, if I were to do so today, with ANY of my women friends and, for the record, I have not, I would be considered to be a terrible sinner and be told that I have committed adultery and will be "damned to hell" by most religious people. How then can kissing be *so right then* ... and *so wrong now* ? Either kissing was wrong both then and now (but then it is very odd that Jesus did not think it important enough to tell us so) or I have to conclude that it is really "the relationship", "Loyalty" and "Commitment" that is so very important - not the individual acts. So if anything (and, by the way, passionately kissing someone other than your husband or wife after marriage does fall into this category) even remotely starts to threaten the long-term survival and viability of that God ordained relationship we call "marriage" and that *God created entity* we call "the family", then this is wrong. Why ? Well the family unit is crucial to any society, including the one God wants us to live in. When it breaks down, mayhem results, sweethearts get hurt, children suffer terribly and many hearts are broken. Loyalty is so very crucial to a stable happy family ! Frequent and trivialized sexual relationships before marriage (the point of commitment) almost always does end up interfering with the quality and durability of adult marriages and families. These liaisons and relationships (often, and I believe, erroneously referred to by some as "*fornication*" ) tend to "use" others for self-gratification and affirmation, which, though understandable, is not very kind or loving thing to do - not even to ourselves. It is noteworthy though that Jesus never once mentioned these directly. The best we can say is that He dealt with this particular issue by pointing out that we should treat each other with kindness, love and loyalty, always - not just during marriage, and not "use" each other with callous disregard for each other's emotions and feelings. Loyalty and commitment are what is very important between sweethearts. Of course, the same is true of our relationship with God, Jesus and the Heavenly family. They do want an exclusive, loving, caring and loyal relationship with us as individuals and as families. God clearly does NOT tolerate our love of or worship of (or us even having any form of relationship with) ANY other "*so called gods or deities*" !



Now we do come to more clear-cut items. Sex with multiple partners is wrong. It stands to reason that if a sexual liaison with a person other than your partner (husband or wife) is classified as adultery, then this practice (which involves at least one other person in addition to your partner) is as well. This may well be an example of the kind of practices that the word "Fornication" is meant to portray. Once again, this could be seen as exciting, experimental, naughty, daring etc. and the ultimate in the expression of your sexual freedom, but really it is not. Actually, it is a sign of sexual slavery, a sign of bondage, not of freedom and it is also just plain old damaging to your emotions and self-esteem (as well

as possibly your body) and really indicates an inability to say no to a manipulative partner and a deep-seated need for affirmation from others. But the excitement is over all too soon and then you have to deal with the guilt - which you can try and ignore for a while, but which will always come back to haunt you and will stunt your personal growth and happiness in a myriad of ways. I have yet to see this all not result in serious emotional problems later. My advise to you simply is: *Stop it, say you are sorry to God and ask for God's help to not do it again.* "Naughty and nice" as this may seem, let me assure you, this is NOT the unforgivable sin! *So don't worry ... just smarten up and stop doing it.* It is wrong for your partner to expect this of you and also for you to expect this of your partner. The sexual revolution made this one of the "ultimate naughties" - but it's really one of the "ultimate" in *very stealthy self deprecating guilt laden and enslaving behaviors* , so if this is something you are doing, have done or are being pressured into doing - it's time to "Break free" !

*"Living in sin" or "living together without a license"* is like having a dog but not getting a dog tag from the city. You love your pooch no less without the license, and conversely, getting "Fido" a license does not ensure him/her being loved and cared for appropriately. Ditto for your "Hubby". It's not the paperwork that's important, just your intentions and actions, and God is witness to those. Those calling this "sin" are simply making it up and trying to demonstrate their ability to lay guilt-trips and to control you.



Incest, being sexually abused as a child or being raped are not sins that you have to answer for ... you are the victim, and Jesus did VERY clearly indicate how the perpetrators of such sins are viewed by heaven ! If you are a victim, do get some help. If you are the perpetrator, *read what follows* :

**Luke 17** <sup>1</sup>One day Jesus said to his disciples "There will always be temptations to sin, but how terrible it will be for the person who does the tempting. It would be better to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around the neck than to face the punishment in store for harming one of these little ones. Everyone should take this clear warning - very, very seriously!

Now, as to Masturbation - some religious scholars try (very hard) to point out



that it is specifically mentioned in the bible - but it is not mentioned anywhere - let alone by Jesus or anywhere in the 10 commandments. A lot of other (non sexual) things are though, and they would be better served (as would we all) if they spent some time on some really worthwhile pursuits. **This one issue has been the cause of so much misplaced guilt that many people's lives have been ruined by it.** If you think I'm making it up, spend some time and research the life of the founder of Kellogg's (the cereal company). What a "flake". His cereal was first founded as a health food -

to prevent young girls and boys from "abusing themselves" or becoming sexually active. This man then went on to marry ... but never consummated the marriage, or so the story goes. He also apparently suggested circumcision of young boys - without anesthetic and many youngsters were put to bed wearing straight jackets to prevent them from exploring their sexuality. "Only in America hey? Sadly not!" In Africa, where I grew up, young girls routinely have their genitalia mutilated to prevent them from ever enjoying sex - alone or with anyone else. I mean really! People can get quite ridiculous and even *downright evil* over sexual *matters* ... while trying to tell you how "*very holy*" they are for taking a hard line on sexuality. My advise to them ? "Give me a break ... give us all a break ... do not make God out to be *weird by association*

*with you!* " This act is often referred to as "*Onanism*" by the *religious nuts*, you know, those that give decent Godly folks a bad name. I challenge you to read the story of Onan (below) and tell me what sin he really was guilty of:

**Genesis 38** <sup>1</sup>About this time, Judah left home and moved to Adullam, where he visited a man named Hirah. <sup>2</sup>There he met a Canaanite woman, the daughter of Shua, and he married her. <sup>3</sup>She became pregnant and had a son, and Judah named the boy Er. <sup>4</sup>Then Judah's wife had another son, and she named him Onan. <sup>5</sup>And when she had a third son, she named him Shelah. At the time of Shelah's birth, they were living at Kezib. <sup>6</sup>When his oldest son, Er, grew up, Judah arranged his marriage to a young woman named Tamar. <sup>7</sup>But Er was a wicked man in the LORD's sight, so the LORD took his life. <sup>8</sup>Then Judah said to Er's brother Onan, "You must marry Tamar, as our law requires of the brother of a man who has died. Her first son from you will be your brother's heir." <sup>9</sup>But Onan was not willing to have a child who would not be his own heir. So whenever he had intercourse with Tamar, he spilled the semen on the ground to keep her from having a baby who would belong to his brother. <sup>10</sup>But the LORD considered it a wicked thing for Onan to deny a child to his dead brother. So the LORD took Onan's life, too. <sup>11</sup>Then Judah told Tamar, his daughter-in-law, not to marry again at that time but to return to her parents' home. She was to remain a widow until his youngest son, Shelah, was old enough to marry her. (But Judah didn't really intend to do this because he was afraid Shelah would also die, like his two brothers.) So Tamar went home to her parents. <sup>12</sup>In the course of time Judah's wife died. After the time of mourning was over, Judah and his friend Hirah the Adullamite went to Timnah to supervise the shearing of his sheep. <sup>13</sup>Someone told Tamar that her father-in-law had left for the sheep-shearing at Timnah. <sup>14</sup>Tamar was aware that Shelah had grown up, but they had not called her to come and marry him. So she changed out of her widow's clothing and covered herself with a veil to disguise herself. Then she sat beside the road at the entrance to the village of Enaim, which is on the way to Timnah. <sup>15</sup>Judah noticed her as he went by and thought she was a prostitute, since her face was veiled. <sup>16</sup>So he stopped and propositioned her to sleep with him, not realizing that she was his own daughter-in-law. "How much will you pay me?" Tamar asked. <sup>17</sup>"I'll send you a young goat from my flock," Judah promised. "What pledge will you give me so I can be sure you will send it?" she asked. <sup>18</sup>"Well, what do you want?" he inquired. She replied, "I want your identification seal, your cord, and the walking stick you are carrying." So Judah gave these items to her. She then let him sleep with her, and she became pregnant. <sup>19</sup>Afterward she went home, took off her veil, and put on her widow's clothing as usual. <sup>20</sup>Judah asked his friend Hirah the Adullamite to take the young goat back to her and to pick up the pledges he had given her, but Hirah couldn't find her. <sup>21</sup>So he asked the men who lived there, "Where can I find the prostitute who was sitting beside the road at the entrance to the village?" "We've never had a prostitute here," they replied. <sup>22</sup>So Hirah returned to Judah and told him that he couldn't find her anywhere and that the men of the village had claimed they didn't have a prostitute there. <sup>23</sup>"Then let her keep the pledges!" Judah exclaimed. "We tried our best to send her the goat. We'd be the

laughingstock of the village if we went back again." <sup>24</sup>About three months later, word reached Judah that Tamar, his daughter-in-law, was pregnant as a result of prostitution. "Bring her out and burn her!" Judah shouted. <sup>25</sup>But as they were taking her out to kill her, she sent this message to her father-in-law: "The man who owns this identification seal and walking stick is the father of my child. Do you recognize them?" <sup>26</sup>Judah admitted that they were his and said, "She is more in the right than I am, because I didn't keep my promise to let her marry my son Shelah." But Judah never slept with Tamar again. <sup>27</sup>In due season the time of Tamar's delivery arrived, and she had twin sons. <sup>28</sup>As they were being born, one of them reached out his hand, and the midwife tied a scarlet thread around the wrist of the child who appeared first, saying, "This one came out first." <sup>29</sup>But then he drew back his hand, and the other baby was actually the first to be born. "What!" the midwife exclaimed. "How did you break out first?" And ever after, he was called Perez. <sup>30</sup>Then the baby with the scarlet thread on his wrist was born, and he was named Zerah.

By the way, I did cover this story in another section. Remember, Judah, Tamar and Perez were some of Jesus' ancestors. From this story, it's pretty simple to see that "Onanism" should refer to a *very sneaky deceitful, swindler* - the kinds you ladies often meet in those *singles bars*. However, this incident is also used by yet other *religious people* to inform us that "Coitus-interruptus" (and thus all contraception), is a sin. Well, I guess they too have a problem with simple *comprehension*. However, Judah was guilty of quite a few sins - including sexual sin at that. It's Funny how these are glossed over so easily. After all, he was the fountainhead of the tribe of Judah, King David's family. I guess that's why not much of a fuss was made about him being a *Jhon*, while poor Tamar was about to be stoned to death for being a prostitute. So, then this supposedly Biblically based case against masturbation and contraception is all clearly a case of "making it all up" - watch for these folks, they are dangerous and only seek to control you via guilt trips, and how often they succeed.



Well now, I think we have covered prostitution, working in the pornography industry, adultery, homosexuality and divorce earlier in the Biblical references to a few "*Naughty Nuns*" - or rather Jesus did. I have not even started to discuss *all things sexual* that you may (or may not) feel guilty about ... but I have given you a *methodology* to evaluate these things without other's involvement - so that you can keep it all just between you, Jesus and God ... and thus avoid other people's guilt trips !



Finally, how about falling pregnant out of wedlock ? Many women have been made to feel guilty all their lives over this "so called" sin ! Well, I have good news for you. Have you ever stopped to think that God chose to "conceive" Jesus in this manner ? Mary was not married when she fell pregnant with Jesus - that's a fact ! Well now, I have to believe that if this issue was/is so very important to God, then He would be sending us some very mixed signals. Clearly God does not do so. He is not as concerned with this as we are ! The fact is, Jesus' Father is Sinless, and His mother is guiltless. Some may say that "this is a special case" - but God still would be very cautious in not endorsing anything even remotely bad or sinful. That is not in God's nature !



Sexuality is so much a part of every person, that it can easily be used to control you. It seems to be in our nature as humans to try to get people "off balance" by making them feel guilty over something (sexuality is an easy candidate) and thus "enslave them" - but really that strategy comes from Satan - God's enemy, yours and ours, and it's amazing how many times the so called "People of God" use Satan's tactics - instead of God's. It's pretty clear they are "*Wolves in sheep's clothing*". God wants you

to have a *free will*, to choose correctly and to learn to live a good and a full life - *free of guilt*. Satan wants to do just the opposite, he wants to lead you to sin and then to control you with guilt. God knows this all too well - and He gives us a way out. He says: "Confess your sins to me, ask for forgiveness and I will not hold them against you ... then you do not have to feel guilty any longer ... you are free again ! " *Well, you get to choose which outcome you want for your life ... not us*. Please choose God's forgiveness and love ... and be free of guilt.

By the way, none of the ideas listed above is new you know ... Sex acts, Sexual exploits and Sexual positions (the three S's) predate reading, writing and arithmetic in human civilizations. It's kind of like those signs up at a certain popular modern fast-food restaurant advertising "more than 3 billion served" ... well, anything you can think about in the sexual arena has been done before, by at least 100's of millions of people, but likely billions of people, over thousands of years and many billions or possibly even trillions of times. So, if you feel you are breaking new ground in this arena - you may want to think again. There is a reason why I purposely left out "Having sex with a fellow astronaut who is your husband" - I thought the target audience too small to warrant inclusion ... they are the only ones who could legitimately have "bragging rights" ... though perhaps, *somewhere in galaxy far, far away?*

Anyhow, I have tried to be fairly comprehensive in compiling the list above, but I'm afraid, even at my age, my imagination has it's limits. In fact, more than half of these things may not even be sins to begin with and you have been running around with all that guilt for nothing ! There are likely many items missing from the list that you still feel are a reason to feel guilty. If this is so or any of the items listed above makes you believe that you will not be eligible for Heaven - *you are completely wrong*, for if it were so, hell would be overflowing and Heaven would have only a handful of humans residing there, with not even God's own awesome prophets, kings and queens anywhere to be seen ! NONE of these things listed above are the *unforgivable sin*, and there are instances in the bible where God and Jesus and God's Prophets confirmed these sins were not even going to be held against those that committed them ! Here is an example of Jhons being blamed and punished by God - but not the prostitutes, so to all the Jhons out there, *your sin is considered worse by God.*

Hosea 4 <sup>7</sup>By adding more of you priests, you multiply the number of people who sin. Now I'll change your pride into shame. <sup>8</sup>You encourage others to sin, so you can stuff yourselves on their sin offerings. <sup>9</sup>That's why I will punish the people for their deeds, just as I will punish you priests. <sup>10</sup>Their food won't satisfy, and having sex at pagan shrines won't produce children. My people have rebelled <sup>11</sup>and have been unfaithful to me, their LORD. My people, you are foolish because of too much pleasure and too much wine. <sup>12</sup>You expect wooden idols and other objects of wood to give you advice. Lusting for sex at pagan

shrines has made you unfaithful to me, your God. <sup>13</sup>You offer sacrifices on mountaintops and hills, under oak trees, and wherever good shade is found. Your own daughters and daughters-in-law sell themselves for sex. <sup>14</sup>But I won't punish them. You men are to blame, because you go to prostitutes and offer sacrifices with them at pagan shrines.

Now, if you are thinking to yourself: "Wow, this is all such great news! There are one or two things listed in this section that I have not tried yet and, it seems from what I have been reading that they are not going to pose a major problem for my entry into Heaven" ... or, "These sin's are not so bad and I'm not in any immediate trouble with God, so I guess I can just go on with my old life-style for now and one day, much later, near the end of my life, I will repent and start my life anew" ... *then you are not quite getting the message!* You see, **Guilt we want you to get rid of, hope we want to give to you, freedom we want to be yours, redemption we want you to enjoy, self-respect we want you to have back, "Great love" and "Great Sex" we wish for you to experience, victory over lust we want you to savor, Heaven we want you to reach for - BUT please understand ... *permission to test God's patience any further we are simply not granting you!***

Abstaining from inappropriate sexual activity is likely to produce some short-term problems for any of us, most obviously sexual frustration. Nevertheless, we must honestly consider whether the promise of healthier self-esteem, emotional well-being and spiritual integrity may reside in the difficult choice of self-denial over the seemingly easy choice of self-indulgence. It is a choice we all face in many important areas of our lives, perhaps nowhere more acutely than in the area of our sexuality. To be sure, both choices will result in pain, but which pain we choose may prove either redemptive or destructive in the long run, and in making a choice we must take seriously our relationship with God and the ultimate quest for Heaven, as well as our emotional and physical well-being - and that of others. Being free from guilt is emotionally and spiritually very healing. Indulging in inappropriate sex harms our emotions, our self-esteem and even our bodies - as well as places on hold our spiritual growth. But, fortunately, Jesus is waiting to pick up the pieces and to restore us in our walk with God. That is indeed a comforting thought! God never loses hope in us and Jesus patiently waits for us to call out to Him for help. Can you

*ever remember any man, who you have dated, being that dependable, loving and caring – and so patient, waiting all that time for you to “sort yourself out” while steadfastly believing in you and loving you ... despite your shortcomings ?*

Well, now is the time to read on ... as this question is about to be conclusively answered, and not by me, but by some rather famous contemporaries of yours, women you possibly even admire or have envied through the years; *women who have tried it all, done it all and seemingly had it all. Does this sound intriguing?*

Before we do that, we may as well concede that we have discussed some pretty controversial things, but one has to say, reading Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – the most reliable sources of Jesus’ teachings, that Jesus was the best friend any woman could ever have ! The good news is - He is still the very best friend any woman can ever have ! While men (especially religious leaders) rallied against “sinful/fallen women”, Jesus NEVER - ever condemned them. He was kind, patient and forgiving. He was understanding, loving and caring and, by the way, He still is ! Now wouldn’t you like a husband like that ?

The good news is, if your Husband submits his life to Jesus, he will tend to take on many of those same qualities, though he will never likely be perfect ... that is just not in our nature. Besides, I think secretly most of us men are just a little scared that the other guys will “gang up on us” if we appear to be too perfect (like they did on Jesus way back then) By the way, it was exclusively guys that ganged up on Jesus, there were no women in leadership back then. I often wonder why modern women (particularly Feminists) do not hold Jesus up as “the perfect man” ... *because He was and is you know*. He often lambasted men, the leaders and officials, for their harsh unfair treatment of women.

So, is any of this real or relevant today ... with today’s people ? Well, I can tell you again and again how much God and Jesus have meant to my family, and how we are so very grateful for their love, forgiveness and guidance, but who are we ? ... Just one little family with two great young sons, an extraordinary wife and mother and an ordinary man, all of which taken together, in our society, does not count for much anymore. So, on your behalf, I went searching for some more famous contemporary examples of the very women Jesus dealt with so *awesomely lovingly* ... specifically the *Samaritan woman* he met at the well and *Mary Magdalene*, since their sins seem to cover almost the entire range of

issues we have discussed. You know, I did not have to search long or hard. Jesus' love and concern for us all is just as real today as it was 2,000 years ago. I was amazed and so very elated at what I found ... and you will be too!

Remember now, the Samaritan woman Jesus met at the well had been married 5 times and was currently living with a 6<sup>th</sup>. Man - but not yet married to him. Remember too that Mary Magdalene was considered to be a very promiscuous woman and certainly one who was "scorned" by the conservative establishment.

**Guess what? I found even better contemporary examples for both of them!**

**Let's start by meeting one "Modern Samaritan woman" and see what Jesus and God did for her:**



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"THE FACE" - that's what fashion photographer Francesco Scavullo calls her. "Jennifer was just one of the great beauties of the 20th century", says Scavullo, who shot her mostly during the 1960's. "I'd look at her in the studio, and the sun would come through the window and hit her face, and I'd get weak all over. She was a heart-attack beauty to men. But I always felt there was something going on behind that face - a sad little girl there." The face that launched a volley of magazine covers - and tantalized a generation of adolescent boys in 1971's epochal "Summer of '42" belongs to: **Jennifer O'Neill**.

**And Scavullo is right:** There was a sad little girl there. Just how sad is evident in O'Neill's new autobiography, aptly titled "Surviving Myself". In sum, O'Neill, has survived: eight husbands and nine marriages; nine miscarriages; one suicide attempt (at 14 yrs. old); electroshock therapy; a broken back from a Christopher Reeve-type riding accident; her daughter Aimee's sexual abuse by O'Neill's fifth husband; and accidentally shooting herself in the hip. In short: enough trauma and drama to fuel a season's worth of TV miniseries. "It was unbelievably cathartic and enlightening - it was worth baring my soul," O'Neill says of writing the book. "I looked back at my life, the pain, the demons, my aspirations. I couldn't have done it any other way and set myself free." For years, O'Neill says she looked for answers in therapy. But eventually, she says, she found the "Key to the puzzle" when she became a Born-Again Christian. "For me, finding my Faith, making a commitment to God, meant finding unconditional love", she says. "I kept looking for it in all my relationships. Now I don't have to expect that from others anymore."

# A Message From Jennifer:

"I've given life quite a run for it's money, and in turn, it's taken me on quite a ride. I was born in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, grew up in the U.S.A., started modeling in New York City at age fifteen to buy a horse, had an international career before I married at age seventeen, suffered nine miscarriages between the births of my three children now ages thirty-three, nineteen and thirteen, starred in over thirty feature films as well as TV series and movies, was a "Cover-Girl" spokesperson for thirty years, survived a broken neck and back, physical and emotional onslaughts along the "fast lane", battled through eight marriages, the sexual abuse of my daughter, a gunshot wound, and experiences normally reserved for novels or Soap Operas... And that's just the tip of the iceberg. But thankfully, God is in charge. I realize now that He's always had his hand on my shoulder, and when I finally asked Him into my heart fourteen years ago at age thirty-eight, my life embraced a new direction and meaning. Today I feel like a war horse pulling a wagon-full of experiences to share rather than an emotionally needy person on a frantic search for love. "Surviving Myself" addresses some of the battles I've overcome along the way to peace, humor and understanding in Jesus Christ. I'd like to talk with you about family relationships, fears, competition, choices, children, commitment and unconditional love. I've identified from the trenches some of life's pitfalls and danger zones, as well as their tools of destruction. Through Christ, I've learned how to heal the pain, clarify priorities, and for the first time with the love of God, I'm enjoying a real sense of humor as well as self-worth as a woman, wife and mother. I can't wait to pull out all the stops and tell you my story... I believe we have more in common than you might imagine".



*Jennifer O'Neill*

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In "Surviving Myself", Jennifer writes: "So many people, even "Christians" don't have any idea what being "Born Again" really means. So many "Christians" go to church and have absolutely no personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Being a Christian is not a religion, it's a relationship. The "Born Again" misconception is not only with non-believers. Being Born Again is not like "AA" where you hit bottom and then hopefully change. It is not a California cult. **Being "Born Again"** means simply that when you ask Jesus Christ into your life as your Lord and Savior, realizing that He died for your sins and mine past, present and future, you receive Eternal Life, not by your good works, but as a free gift of grace.

When you take Jesus Christ as your choice, you die to your old sin nature and are Born Again spiritually in Him. From that very moment on, Christ is living on the inside of you and you are indwelled by the Holy Spirit as a gift from God to be your "comforter" and guide. It is then you begin your personal relationship with God who knows every hair on your head, every one of your needs, large or small.



He knows your fears He will protect you, never, ever desert or abandon you. He loves you unconditionally and will fill you with peace and knowledge beyond understanding. You are God's child because He gave His only begotten Son to die in your place for your sins so that He will present you blameless and washed clean to His Father in Heaven. All you have to do is ask Jesus Christ into your heart and you are Born Again into the body of Christ, forever covered by God's awesome power, love and individual plan for your life. And all He asks of us is to love righteousness and live our lives with humility and honor to Him... There was not a word big enough to describe my relief, joy and excitement when I accepted Jesus Christ in Faith. I was having my first real love

affair. I now understood what it meant to put God above all else and not feel jealous that my spouse was doing the same. With God at the center of my life, I had a change for the first time to love instead of needing to be loved and demanding to be filled up by someone else. God was filling me up and He was never going to let me down."

Would you like to know more about a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? "Please write me... I would love to hear from you. My prayer warriors and I will pray with you and encourage you in your walk with Christ."

**God Bless !**

*Jennifer*





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You can read more about Jennifer's story at her truly awesome website:

[www.jenniferoneill.com](http://www.jenniferoneill.com)

You will end up spending hours visiting with Jennifer ... and being truly fascinated !

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In one of life's rather strange little ironies, I discovered, that my wife Jennifer, and the lovely Jennifer O'Neill, share the same birthday as, by the way, do Ivana Trump and Cindy

Crawford. I also did notice that Cindy Crawford and my wife shared the same distinctive mark, a mole above their LHS upper lip, though Jennifer (my wife) had hers surgically removed some years ago. Also, as you may have noticed, they are all gorgeous ! However interesting these things are, the one very awesome thing Jennifer O'Neill and my wife Jennifer have in common, is that they are both "Born Again" Christians and both now share a wondrous relationship with Jesus and, through Him, God - for which I am so very thankful ! You know, you can too ... Jesus loves you no less !



Now let's meet a "Modern Mary Magdalene" and see what Jesus and God have done for her.

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Top News Headlines

July 6, 2001 -- 10:42 pm

## [Jane Fonda Talks About Her New Christian Faith](#)

CHICAGO, IL ([CHARISMA](#)) -- Former actress and political activist Jane Fonda has spoken for the first time about her newfound Christian faith. In an interview with Oprah Winfrey for the TV chat show host's new "O" magazine, she talks about feeling "this incredible connection to God, or what I call the Holy Spirit."

Raised in an agnostic home, the 62-year-old began her spiritual search about 10 years ago. She now attends a black Baptist church in Atlanta. "It's been difficult, because when you're famous and the word gets out that you're a Christian, every church is saying, 'Even Jane Fonda.' People come up to me in airports and throw their arms around me."

Fonda describes CNN founder and media mogul Ted Turner--her third husband, from whom she has been separated for six months after eight years of marriage--as "a fallen angel." She says: "He was going to be a missionary. He was saved seven times, he says." He felt betrayed by God when his sister died young "and it turned him hostile--and it's not hard to be hostile to the church...you can go through history, the Crusades and the inquisitions, and the formal church has a lot to apologize for."

The two-time Oscar winner widely vilified for her strong anti- Vietnam War stand says she will "go to her grave" regretting being photographed in a Vietcong anti-aircraft carrier during a visit to the country. "It galvanized such hostility. It was just thoughtless. I wasn't thinking." © 2000, *Charisma News Service*



### **Judge grants divorce to Jane Fonda, Ted Turner**

*Tuesday, May 22, 2001* By **CAROL WOODFORD** THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA -- A judge granted Jane Fonda a divorce from CNN founder Ted Turner on Tuesday, bringing a quiet end to a very public marriage.

Fulton County Superior Court Judge Gail Tusan granted Fonda's divorce petition, which she filed last month, said her attorney, John C. Mayoue.

"I feel sadness," the 63-year-old actress and former fitness guru said in a statement that Mayoue issued. "We shared 10 years together, and I will always care for him. Now it's time to move on, and I wish him well."

Turner's spokesman, Phillip Evans, did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment.

Mayoue declined to discuss details of the divorce settlement except to say that "all issues are resolved."

Turner, the 62-year-old billionaire founder of CNN, married Fonda in December 1991. It was the third marriage for both. The couple announced in January 2000 that they were separating.

Fonda's divorce filing said only that the marriage was "irretrievably broken," standard language for a divorce petition in Georgia. But Turner told *The New Yorker* in an interview published last month that Fonda's decision to become a Christian played a role in their breakup. "She just came home and said, 'I've become a Christian,'" he said. "Before that, she was not a religious person. That's a pretty big change for your wife of many years to tell you. That's a shock."

Fonda, who won best-actress Oscars for 1971's "Klute" and 1978's "Coming Home," told the magazine: "My becoming a Christian upset him very much -- for good reason. He's my husband and I chose not to discuss it with him -- because he would have talked me out of it."

She said Turner also knew the birth of her daughter's child would keep her away from home.

"He needs someone to be there 100 percent of the time. He thinks that's love. It is not love. It's babysitting," she said. "... We went in different directions. I grew up."

Turner has five children from previous marriages, while Fonda has two.

Turner lost direct control of his Atlanta-based media empire in the mergers that created AOL Time Warner. He is worth more than \$9 billion, according to Forbes magazine.

## Fonda Files for Divorce



by Mark Armstrong Apr 18, 2001, 3:20 PM PT

[Jane Fonda](#) is looking to be born again. In more ways than one, it turns out.

The two-time Oscar winner has filed for divorce from billionaire CNN founder [Ted Turner](#), saying in court papers that their marriage was "irretrievably broken" following [their split](#) more than a year ago.

Fonda, 63, filed the paperwork Monday in Fulton County, Georgia, Superior Court. The petition stated that the couple already reached an agreement on dividing their assets.

The decision was not all that unexpected. After more than eight years together, Turner and Fonda announced in January 2000 that they were splitting up, but continued "to be committed to the long-term success of our marriage."

Fonda's divorce papers, however, were filed on the same day the *New Yorker* published an interview with Turner in which the 62-year-old media mogul said he and Fonda split up partly because of her decision to become a Christian.

"She just came home and said 'I've become a Christian,' " Turner told the magazine. "Before that, she was not a religious person. That's a pretty big change for your wife of many years to tell you. That's a shock."

Replied Fonda: "My becoming a Christian upset him very much--for good reason. He's my husband and I chose not to discuss it with him--because he would have talked me out of it. He's a debating champion."

Turner--an atheist who previously questioned whether prohibiting adultery should've been one of the 10 Commandments--also acknowledged that he had become suicidal after his breakup with Fonda, and after losing of control over Turner Broadcasting when AOL Time Warner was reorganized.

"I felt like Job," he told the magazine. Turner's own father, Ed Turner, killed himself when Ted was 24.

Fonda, the actress-turned-fitness guru whose film credits include [Klute](#), [Coming Home](#) and [The Morning After](#), married Turner on December 21, 1991. It was the third marriage for both of them.

The pair had no children together, but Turner has five from previous marriages and Fonda has two.



## Maranatha Christian Journal

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News and Views for Today's Online Christian  
**Jane Fonda A Born-Again Christian?**

ATLANTA, GA ([WorldNetDaily](#)) -- The separation between media mogul Ted Turner and his wife, Jane Fonda, was prompted in part by Fonda's stunning embrace of "born-again" evangelical Christianity, sources close to the couple told [WorldNetDaily](#).

The split was announced yesterday in a statement, which indicated the couple remains "committed to the long-term success of our marriage." The two have been married since Dec. 21, 1991.

Friends say the path of Fonda's spiritual conversion began two years ago when her chauffeur began witnessing to the actress about his faith in Jesus Christ. At first, Fonda was reportedly troubled by those conversations. Later, she began to welcome them and attend church with her chauffeur.

"Her faith is very real, very deep," said one insider. "Of course, with any celebrity conversion, the pressures can be enormous, But she is serious about her faith and regularly attends Bible study and church."

The idea of radical political activist Jane Fonda embracing Christianity is sure to create a stir. Fonda has been a high-profile political target because of her open support in the 1970s of Communist North Vietnam. She has been an outspoken supporter of abortion on demand, and Turner once attacked Christianity as a "religion for losers."

Fonda has made at least one public statement that alluded to her Christianity in June 1998. In response to a question about why conservative Christians object to promoting sex education, she told the National Press Club:

"I want to say this just based on the letters I get, OK? When I talk about the Christian Coalition, I'm not talking about all the members of the Christian Coalition. I am a Christian. I am talking about the leadership that sets the agenda, creates the message and builds these various sophisticated campaigns. I think that ... Well, I'll just tell you a story.

I met one of the leaders of the Christian Coalition, in, in Atlanta a few years ago. And, we were arguing about this issue of contraception and sex education and so forth. And I said: 'But what do you do about the fact that two-thirds of teen-agers have sex before they graduate high school?' And she said ... she looked both ways, and said: 'We're gonna lose them.'

Yet, insiders say Fonda's spiritual faith, since then, has matured in a way that affects her entire worldview. Recently, for instance, she refused to "meditate" at an environmental conference, suggesting to those involved that they would be well-advised instead to "pray to Jesus Christ."

"While we continue to be committed to the long-term success of our marriage, we find ourselves at a juncture where we must each take some personal time for ourselves. Therefore, we have mutually decided to spend some time apart," said the Turner-Fonda official statement. "We ask that you respect this decision."

In building his media empire, Turner started with Turner Broadcasting Systems and, through acquisitions and the creation of new companies, expanded his holdings to include Turner Network Television (TNT), CNN, CNN International, CNN Headline News, CNN/SI (with Sports Illustrated), CNNfn, the Atlanta Braves, the Atlanta Hawks and the Thrashers -- all sister companies to CNN.com.

In 1996, his television operations were acquired by Time Warner Inc., Turner becoming its vice chairman. In 1998, the New Yorker reported that he was considering a run for the White House in 2000, and quoted him saying, "I am very serious about running for president, but Jane doesn't want me to do it."

Fonda's family ranks among the aristocracy of the United States film industry. She and brother Peter are the children of screen star Henry Fonda. Her niece, Bridget Fonda, is also a popular actress. Jane Fonda won an Academy Award for her performance in "Klute" (1971), but has largely stepped away from acting since marrying Turner. Turner, married three times, has five children. Fonda also has been married three times, and has three children from her earlier marriages. Turner and Fonda have several residences, including a 7,000-acre spread in Montana, where they raise bison. (© 2000, WorldNetDaily)



Photograph by Richard Phibbs

## OPRAH TALKS TO JANE FONDA

*For the first time since  
she and Ted Turner split,  
the actress opens up about  
what she fears most—  
and the life-changing  
promise she has made*

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**Oprah:** I've read that, like me, you've always struggled with the disease to please.

**Jane Fonda:** I used to walk into a party and think, Oh, my God, will I be interesting enough? Will people like me? Will I be pretty enough? Do I fit in? Now I go into a room and think, do I really want to be here? Are these people I want to spend a few hours with? It's a big shift.

**O:** How did you make the shift?

**JF:** Hard work. Growing up.

**O:** Are you still growing up?

**JF:** To do life right, you have to feel like you're growing up until the day you die. The thing I'm proudest of is that I have stayed curious. I have every intention, when I'm on my deathbed, of saying, "Oh, my God I get it!"

**O:** Do you get it at all now?

**JF:** Three or four years after I married Ted, I thought I got it. Wrong.

**O:** What did you think you had gotten?

**JF:** I thought I had learned how to have an intimate relationship. And I thought I'd learned how to be happy. Everybody has issues. For me, the challenge is intimacy.

**O:** I read that when you married Ted, you thought you'd found your soul mate. You said that he had helped you to show up in ways that you hadn't.

**JF:** In many ways, that's true. We are very much alike.

O: Was it exciting to be in love again in your fifties?

JF: Oh, yeah.

O: Did you believe that was possible?

JF: I've never become cynical about love. Ted is a soul mate. I care about him. He was wonderful for me.

O: How did he help you show up in ways that you hadn't been able to?

JF: He kept challenging me. He kept saying, "I need you here. I need you to be intimate." And so I tried to figure out what that meant. I went into therapy, and I worked hard on it. And I finally learned to do it.

O: Learned to do it too much?

JF: There's no such thing. When we started off, we were on the same level. And then I moved somewhere else. And I don't mean [somewhere] better or worse, just different. The relationship is very much in flux, [but] we're very close. He means the world to me. He taught me to be happy.

O: Which is different from saying he made you happy. He taught you to be happy.

JF: He did. In some ways, he's like my father, but he's not dour. He's full of life and funny, in fact, he's a riot. And I tend to be overly serious, because I'm my father's daughter. So it was wonderful for me to be with somebody lighthearted, well, Ted's not really lighthearted, he's deep, someone who gets that much of a kick out of life.

O: Why are you and Ted separated?

JF: Because we changed. I changed. I changed probably more than he did, and we need to see what that means. Are we happier by ourselves than we were together? It's not clear. I don't know what's going to happen.

O: What do you want to happen?

JF: I want to not lose my voice again. And being by myself, that is to say, without a man, it's been a long time, is allowing me to know what it feels like to live in my own skin, to remember what I miss and don't miss about a relationship.

O: Jane, it's been rumored that you're going back to theater. Is that true?

JF: I would love to do theater if it resonates with me and speaks to things I really want to say.

O: Was your appearance at the Academy Awards this year a coming out?

JF: No.

O: It sure looked like one, if that wasn't coming out, I don't know what is! What *was* that?

JF: Fun. Apparently [the show's producers] called [my friend] Paula, who used to be my agent, and said, "We want Jane to present the special award." Paula called me right after the separation was announced. I was still in the crying stage, and she said, "You better do the Academy Awards." And I said, "I can't do that! People will resent it. I'm not in the business anymore. It looks like I'm trying to hog the limelight." And she plain bullied me into saying okay. About 15 years ago, I had

hosted with Robin Williams and Alan Alda, and I wore this fabulous dress. I said to Paula, "I've got just the dress!" And she said, "You're not gonna wear a dress that you've worn before! Are you kidding? Ask Vera Wang." And Vera made my dress!

I raise money every year for [charity], I auction everything but my underwear, and [after the Oscars] I thought, I'll auction the dress! That got into the papers, and then I got to liking the dress. So I got a second round of publicity saying I'm not going to sell the dress, I'm going to wear it for a year and *then* sell it!

O: Did you feel sexy when you walked out onstage?

JF: I owned the stage. I was inside my body. I was a little worried when I had to turn, I had on heels that were about four inches high. I was curious about how I would feel being back [in Hollywood]. I felt welcomed. I went to the parties, and I sat there thinking, Everybody is so nice, and I'm so glad I don't live here! I've done it already. And I wouldn't go back there if you paid me.

O: Even if they paid you a lot?

JF: A lot. Because at my core, I'm an activist. And California is so big, and the problems are so vast, that you can never feel you have an impact. Here, I can matter.

O: Who are you now, Jane?

JF: Who am I? I'm a survivor. I'm a woman with tremendous inner resources and resilience. I care about people. I believe in "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you," and I live by that. I am becoming authentic, and that's important to me. I have surpassed both my parents in terms of emotional stability, happiness and well-being. And I'm a lucky woman. I've deserved my luck.

O: Do you believe you created your luck?

JF: No. I think that, like most of us, I was born with an innate goodness. And I believe that God has seen that in me and has protected me through times when I should have died so I could fulfill my potential and do his work.

O: The Bible says, "Many are called, but few are chosen." Do you believe you're called?

JF: I believe I'm called.

O: And what is your calling?

JF: To provide opportunities for people who don't have the opportunities they should.

O: Is there anything that scares you, Jane?

JF: No.

O: Not even death itself?

JF: Not at all. I feel so full. I just feel good. I'm 62, and I'm finding my voice. I mean, if that's not fabulous.

O: That is!

JF: Ted said, "People your age aren't supposed to change!" I said, "Oh?" I can't tell you what living in Atlanta means to me. I can't tell you what having the opportunity to hang out with my girlfriends means to me. I feel like the world is before me.





You Know, I'm sure that somewhere there are some folks looking down their noses at Jesus (right now) for having anything to do with Jane Fonda, just like when Mary poured perfume on Jesus' feet, washed them with her tears and dried them with

her hair - saying amongst themselves: "If only He knew what kind of woman she was ... she was such a *loose woman* and she was such a traitor for journeying to Vietnam and posing with the Vietcong and their anti-aircraft guns, and she has been married three times and a communist and ... ". I am also just as sure that Jesus would reply to them with *something like* : " **I tell you, her sins--and they are many - have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.**" and probably "Your sins are forgiven." These people may then well say among themselves, "Who does this man think he is, going around forgiving sins?" And Jesus may well say to her: "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." - and Jane Fonda did. **And so too can you if,** like Jane Fonda and so many others, you simply confess your shortcomings (your sins) to Jesus and God and ask them (humbly) to forgive you and to please help you live the kind of life that would make them proud of you ! So, why is it we wait? For our lives to become a mess ? Do we really think that all these women we have met and talked about got it all wrong ... and that we alone are right? Just how many affairs, orgasms, men and broken hearts does it take to achieve true love and fulfillment ? The answer is: "**None**" - of course, since no amount of these seemingly *enjoyable naughty and very addictive things* will ever get us to heaven, or ever even satiate our earthly need to be loved, adored and valued. Think about it ... have you ever had enough of any of these ? Are you satiated with love yet ? Are you truly valued ? Do you feel good about your life ? By all means, like food, enjoy sex ... appropriately. You do not have to be a Nun ... least not a " Naugthy Nun ". Come on now, you know it's time for you to ...

*"Be ... all that you can be ... in Heaven's family"*

The alternative is a lifetime of trying in vain to find a reason for being here and to satiate your need to be loved, adored and valued. Jesus and God can give you that love and the answers you are searching for ... and very real meaning and fullness to your life. **Jennifer O'Neill really says it best for all of us:**

"There was not a word big enough to describe my relief, joy and excitement when I accepted Jesus Christ in Faith. I was having my first real love affair. I now understood what it meant to put God above all else and not feel jealous that my spouse was doing the same. With God at the center of my life, I had a change for the first time to love instead of needing to be loved and demanding to be filled up by someone else. God was filling me up and He was never going to

let me down."

**God Bless – Jennifer**



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Personally, at a certain point in my life, I had to concede that my wife, who is also called "Jennifer", ought to first love Jesus as a "Husband figure" and God as a "Father figure" before loving herself, me, our children, her dad, mom etc. *and then I would have a near perfect wife.* **You know, it worked ... I do!** I was so impressed I commissioned a huge and costly oil painting of her, ( *pictured below - "Born Again" © 1996* ) by a now very famous artist, to hang high up on the *most prominent* wall in our home ... just to remind us all, daily, of how very blessed we really all are!

Jennifer's decision did not come about as a result of an *easy carefree* life; rather it arose out of great pain. You know, it always seems that way. We try to live life on our own terms searching all our lives for those elusive things called "love and happiness" - and the very fortunate ones find God and Jesus, and the freeing truth. They experience a totally new level of fulfillment, an almost unnatural peace of mind, unconditional love, and also they discover the real purpose God has for their lives which was, until then, quite well obscured.

**But for now,** Here is a "sneak peek" at that painting of Jennifer, at age 2 and at age 35, when she was "**Born Again**", which is the name of this *now famous* painting. You can find a little more about it in the Addendum that follows, and all the "saucy details" by visiting [www.Jenny.ws](http://www.Jenny.ws)



# In closing ...

We should appreciate the fact that once we have God's Holy Spirit take up residence inside of us, we no longer have to sit and listen to preachers "making up God's laws", and then watch them use these to control, manipulate, judge and condemn people - all supposedly on God's behalf. Please do find a church that preaches Jesus' teachings and clearly tries to live by them. I just know there are *Church families like that* just specially suited to you and I ... and in good time God will point you to one of them. Until then, do talk to God and Jesus every day by praying and ask Them for wisdom and truth ... and to help you live the kind of life They know is best for you. Do read Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, for they quote Jesus well. The Bible is a Great Book, but the further you get away from the source of Jesus' teachings, the less clear it all becomes. That's probably why so many churches are having problems with credibility today, they have gradually strayed away from Jesus' central message, which He delivered at great personal expense, directly to us from our Heavenly Father ... God. Many churches call themselves "Bible Believing Fundamentalists". It is sad that Jesus had to die and suffer so much - just so that they could call themselves Christians ... we find them singing Hymns about Jesus and condemning and preaching - predominantly from the Old Testament.

Now after all of our discussions and our many examples, it would not be proper to hide the fact that most of what can be called "Sexual sin" is committed by heterosexual men - just like me. But it is also a sad fact that most of the shame and the guilt surrounding sexual sin is borne by women - just like you, and, very often, they suffer most of the consequences too. All the same, there is a deep-seated need in each of us to feel God's loving kindness and to know His forgiveness - one at a time, man or woman. People are delivered from all sorts of addictions and wrong life-style choices by the power of God and by His love and caring - seemingly despite their best efforts to resist. The above examples should be proof positive of that. Most often *deliverance and rebirth* come after our lives crumble. I often think how sad this is, but this is the way it happened for my wife and I - as well as for countless many others. It may even have to happen to you that way? I pray this is not so ... but if it is, keep these writings of mine for when you truly need some reassurance. I wonder if

Jane Fonda or Jennifer O'Neill would have changed simply by reading these stories, their own excluded of course - but it's not impossible. However, after trying everything else to find true happiness and love, in the end they had to admit that true unconditional love comes only from Heaven - not from any human man, and that the only way their need to be loved and valued was ever satiated ... was when they bowed down before almighty God, worshipping Him, and accepted God's plan for their lives and for their salvation, which is provided to us through Jesus - God's Son. We do not only have to rely on Bible stories for examples of rebellious people - we have grown up watching these *ultimate rebels* and now watch, *in total amazement*, as they concede that God's plan for their lives is the only way, and that their rebellion was very counterproductive. How could we doubt them ? We've seen them *try it all, seem to have it all and do it all*. Did you ever find yourself envying them? They think you should not. Now though, these people can be used more powerfully in God's plans than entire churches of regularly attending parishioners. God loves free-spirited passionate people ... he finds it very difficult to motivate the impassionate ones to do anything other than habitual things. So, in God's eyes, your energy, passion, curiosity and zest for life and living is a big plus! All He is waiting for is for you to direct it all according to his plan for your life.

By the way, one of the most common fears I have heard expressed is that *coming under Heaven's guidance in your life leads to a "cessation of all fun and enjoyment"*. Well what a lie that is ! Living this new life does not have to be boring and unexciting - quite the opposite, and by the way, you can enjoy great sex too ! Polls taken on this subject report that those in a stable loving relationship are much more satisfied with their sex-lives than those that are cruising the singles bars (or wherever) looking for their "next conquest". This did surprise me, since I thought that by the way the entertainment industry portrays the "sexual revolution", these folks must be having great sex - well apparently not nearly *frequently* enough and not even nearly *great* enough.

Another is "I have lived such a promiscuous life that I doubt God will bless me with a normal baby. He may want to punish me, so I do not want to have children." How sad ... and how very wrong! Most all the "Naughty Nuns" I mentioned had healthy babies, yet so many dedicated Christians and Godly believers do not. So obviously God is not malicious... God is very Understanding,

Loving and Caring ! You're a chances of having a healthy baby are as good as anyone else's ... though repentance will ensure a better start for your family.

A common sentiment is " I think I need to go and live in a foreign country, or in another city ... I need to start over. " Well, just remember " You can run from people, you can run from places ... but you never can run away from your feet ! " You do need a "fresh start", a "new beginning" ... a "rebirth", but you do not have to go far away to find it. God provides one for you - right where you are !

Another common fear I have heard expressed is: " There is no hope for me, adulterers go to Hell, and I am just not eligible for Heaven ". Well, if you have been reading what I wrote for you, you will have seen conclusive proof that this is just not so. God forgave King David for Adultery, as well as many others.

Yet another common fear I have heard expressed is " You just do not understand, I just cannot help myself " - you are right, but God and Jesus can !

Lastly, many people point to prominent Christians who are hypocrites and angry, hate filled, bigots ... just not nice people, and decide that they do not want anything to do with God and Jesus because of them. I'm heartened that you find such 'religious' folks reprehensible (so did Jesus) but them being so rotten does not make God and Jesus unacceptable too. Many Atheists are murders, pimps, rapists, pedophiles or even guilty of genocide and other heinous crimes so, by this logic, why be an atheist ? God is God, and any man or woman claiming to belong to His family, but doing wicked things, is guilty of misrepresentation and really is working, quite effectively, for the other side, while claiming to work for God. It's both unfair and very unwise to deem God or His Son as "undesirable" because of some very "un-Godly" person's sins.

There is redeeming value in many church families, but not even they, or I or anyone else has all the truth. That comes to you directly from God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, who takes up residence within you when you are "Reborn" spiritually. So, do not rely on any earthly person or organization for truth and for your salvation - it's free for the asking DIRECTLY via Jesus ... from God, anytime of the day or night and from anywhere in the world. You need no human *middleman* to broker your salvation, just a humble heart and a desire to *finally be loved, unconditionally, and accepted - yes, even imperfect as you are.*



**Addendum:** These few pages that follow share a little bit about my wife - Jennifer's "Rebirth"

**The Past ...** Here Jennifer, in a particularly poignant scene, is a little girl of 2. She is left standing alone at the edge of the forest, just before the stone bridge - the exit out of the forest. Clutching a bunch of red roses to her chest, she stares wistfully at her 35 year old alter-ego, now safely out of the treacherous forest and across the bridge, knowing that they will never meet again. Their journey together all those many years through the dark forest with all its many pitfalls, is finally over. She cannot cross ... she must remain behind ... but will she? She has given her alter-ego some of those lovely red roses to wear in her hair ... as permission to cross into her new life. All at once the little girl

is heartbroken, scared and uncertain, seemingly all alone, not quite sure what is to become of her, but instinctively knowing that what she is witnessing is proper and good - for both of them!

(John 3 verse 3) Jesus answered and said to him,  
"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born  
again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Born, the first time ... and we have a lot of learning to do!

All of us are "haunted" (to some degree) by our childhood. In Jennifer's case, as she grew into a young woman, her mother resorted to keeping Jennifer "off balance" by constantly withholding approval on most all fronts ... for her choice of boyfriends (and ultimately a husband), her choice of a place to live, her looks, abilities, accomplishments and even for her wedding ... which her mother not only refused to attend, but ensured Jennifer's dad and sister did not attend either. This was all done in a futile attempt to "keep control" of Jennifer, by keeping her "off balance" so that she could hold on to her all her

life. It was (and is) pretty selfish, but really is not very rare at all. Then later, when Jennifer "*rose above it all*", she totally rejected her, with the words: "*I'll forget I ever had you and I'll get myself another daughter and some other grandchildren*". You know, I cannot think of a more hurtful thing to say. Well, she has not yet managed to do so yet ... and likely never will.

If you can, imagine Jennifer maturing and not thinking of herself as *beautiful or capable*... it boggles my mind! *All those many wasted years*, but then would we ever have met if things were different? Likely not, and my life would have been so much poorer as a result!

I have had to conclude that God knows best *what to do ... and when to do it*, we only think we do but really, we do not. We generally stumble around in our *dark forest* clinging desperately to our past - *until one day we see God's light shining*, illuminating the entrance into a totally new life and only if we choose to follow that light, we are finally able to leave the past behind, and, at that moment we are "**Reborn**"



Being "**Born Again**" simply means: "God giving us another chance *at living and loving - more appropriately*" ... after we have learned (usually the hard way) from our sins - from our inevitable mistakes, and are genuinely repentant and after inviting Jesus into our lives to help us, not just to start over, but also to explain to us what exactly God expects of us and to act as our constant advisor and guide in our everyday living and loving ... to ensure that our decisions and actions are sound.

35 that's half of our allotted lifespan and, some may think, that's late to be "*beginning again*", BUT it's not. I know, I was 37. What a huge difference just a few years of a new life makes! Jennifer invited God and Jesus into her life in 1993 (as did I) as a result of our happy life disintegrating before our very eyes. Often that is what it takes for us to finally let go of the old life we have become so accustomed to, even if it is less than optimal. This is not so strange when you consider that it is all we have ever known. However, if we regard this "first time around" as *practice time*, then we will appreciate that we can look forward to a "new life" less fraught with the dangers inherent in stumbling



around through a dark forest with only our *childhood experiences, fears and unfulfilled needs as our guide*. Instead we can look forward to God and Jesus (our savior) being our guiding light "*the second time around*". It's awesome when suddenly you realize that you have the *Intelligence of the entire universe* waiting to be activated - ready to serve as a *loving guiding light for your life* too, and that it all happens simply as a matter of personal choice ... a matter of faith, and not by genetics, wealth, status, membership or good fortune. Your humbly asking God and Jesus for help with your life is all that it takes ... and then you too can "*Cross over to a new life*" ... and you are "Born Again". You see, God knows that we are Born, "Grow up", "Screw up" and, if we are smart ... "Wise up", "Fess up" and ask for God's loving help to "Smarten up". God's help comes to us in the form of His own Son, Jesus, who saves us from the "*Mess*" our lives have decayed into - which is why he is often referred to as "our Savior". *Sooner or later we all need a second chance - at some point we all need to "start life anew". My prayer is that we will all be able to say to God: "Thank you God - for loving me so much that You were willing to give me a second chance ... Thank you so very, very much!"*

The Future ... Here Jennifer, in a particularly joyful scene, is a grown woman



of 35. She has walked across the stone bridge, out of the dark forest and on into the light. She walks confidently and smiles radiantly as the shaft of light cuts through the forest canopy and shines down upon her. A white dove (symbolizing God's Holy Spirit) flies down through the light and toward her expectant outstretched hand. Red roses adorning her hair are a gift from her young alter-ego, permission to venture forth and on into a new life for both of them!

Finally the little girl and the grown woman are one! Ahead of her lies just the briefest hint of an ethereal scene of glowing mists, green grass and brightly colored radiantly beautiful flowers. A beautiful future beckons ... with those few willing steps across that bridge, Jennifer's day of "Rebirth" has arrived ... and an awesome, exciting future lies before her ... and there is great rejoicing in Heaven!

*Jennifer (and we, her family, as bystanders) learned a valuable lesson from her ordeals: If she had to wait for the approval and acceptance of her birth-mother before getting on with a meaningful life, she'd still be waiting, crippled. Instead she asked for the "love, approval and acceptance of God and Jesus" ... and got it freely. Given to Jennifer in 1994, the promises held within the imagery of this painting have indeed come to fruition ... Jennifer is FREE !*

*God made us and knows us and our human natures "intimately". God expects us to make mistakes and does provide us with the capability of a "New Beginning" - once we have learned that "Our way is not the best way". God allows us to "Bump our heads" and to "Learn the hard way" ... that's a very loving gesture, not a controlling one, and I'm sure you can relate to this being the case. At some point we are expected to admit, to God, the foolishness of trying to do things our way, ask for forgiveness and pledge to do things "God's way". That is what being "Born Again" or "Reborn" means. It's not some religious buzzword or cliché, it's a real life-changer - it's a second chance ! At that point, God leaves us in the care of someone who has lived as a human, down here on earth - God's only Son, Jesus. He takes over as our earthly "Shepherd" looking after God's flock while they are still down here on earth, until we all go to Heaven, where he then presents us to God - our "Sins washed clean". When we "invite" God and Jesus into our lives in this manner, and thus start our lives anew, we are given the Holy Spirit to live inside of us and guide us in our everyday living. Notice though that when we are "Born Again", we are not magically perfect. We still do sin, but we are no longer in a state of denial. We are now clearly able to see that what we are doing is "Sin" and we are usually warned ahead of time so that the choices before us are clear - as are the consequences. But, we do now have a mechanism to admit our guilt, ask for forgiveness, get it and keep striving toward fuller compliance with God's way. In essences, we are on God's "Continuous Improvement" plan for our lives.*

*We are just one little family that can tell you what a huge positive difference it has made in our lives, our happiness and our general well-being. If only we had know all of this sooner ! Our lives had been full, exciting and neat before we took this step ... but nowhere near as full, as exciting and as neat as they are now ... now that we are living by God's plan ! Besides, our "full, exciting and neat life" was falling apart - stunningly quickly. Why try and go it alone, when*

*you have the intelligence of the entire universe ready and waiting to be activated ... as a loving guide for your life and that of your loved ones ? Going it alone, writing our own rules as only one of billions of people that have ever been born and died on this earth, leaves us at a distinct disadvantage. We can never know as much or have seen as much about the "Human experience" as God has. God knows what works and what doesn't for us humans and our lives. It's just plain sensible to ask for God's advice and to live by it.*

God loves you no less ! Your day of "Rebirth" awaits too ... but it's all up to you.

Well, my wife Jennifer and I (and people like Jennifer O'Neil), to name just a few, count ourselves amongst many fortunate people who discovered the awesome forgiving love of God, flowing through His Son, our savior, Jesus ... and in so doing, we also discovered a really neat secret - " We all are here to learn how to truly love and care for (and about) others, and not just want to be loved by and cared for by others ... nice as that is ".

**We pray that you ask for and find God's love too.**



**(In Luke 15 verse 7) Jesus is quoted as saying:** "I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."

In our own personal love-story I have tried (*as best as I, in my limited capacity, can do*) to represent the "before" and the "after" in our lives. I cannot honestly tell you that after this "Rebirth" you will have no more problems or challenges, but I can reassure you that at least then you can rely on Heaven's team to help you face these challenges, whatever they may be, and to deal with them in an effective manner. You'd have to trust me on this, but "going it alone" has proved nowhere near as effective! I shudder to think what life would have been like for us if we had not freely asked for (though "pleaded for" may be more accurate) Heaven's help ... and received it. No doubt we would have experienced "more of the same", and that was a very fast deteriorating situation. Even though we had so much going for us at the start of life, we were "losing the battles" one by one and in time, we would have "lost the war".

*Below are just some words that can be used when you feel that you are ready and want to invite God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit into your life. I have highlighted the variable part of this prayer, since your own reasons for wanting a "New Beginning" may well be quite unique:*

" Dear God ... I am SO VERY SORRY ! I have been seeing only my hurt and needs, and totally ignoring the hurt that I have caused you - *my creator and Heavenly Father*. Please forgive me for not trusting you enough, obeying you enough or loving you enough through all these years. I do now accept the reality of your Son Jesus, and his very painful death - that huge sacrifice that You and He made on my behalf some 2,000 years ago. Lord Jesus, "thank you" ! Please come into my life and be my savior and look after me ... *please* ! I am so sorry for rejecting You all these many years and also for distancing myself from Your Father more and more throughout that time. I am also so sorry for letting my bitterness stop me from hearing your loving pleas. **I am so very scared of losing my wife/husband/family/job/health/wealth/friends/sanity.** I am inviting You and Your Father, God, to come into my life and make sense of it all - to fix up the mess that my life has become. Please send the Holy Spirit to take up residence within me and be my guide. I always thought I was so independent - strong enough to manage just fine, but now I find myself at my wit's end, *just barely hanging in*. Thank you for all the things you have done for me lately to show me that you have not forgotten me. Please forgive my sins Dear God. Please help me Dear God ... please help me Lord Jesus! " *Amen*.

*These words are not perfect ... they are mine, but feel free to use them and change them to suit your own circumstances. Fortunately God does not expect us (ever) to be perfect - BUT, God does expect a repentant heart, a humble attitude and a willingness to accept his "Continuous Improvement" plan for our lives and for us to accept the reality of His Son, Jesus, and to place ourselves in His earthly care. God is our God and Jesus is our savior and the Holy Spirit is our guide ... and a "Second chance" is very very REAL! My prayer for you is that you pluck up the courage to humbly ask God for forgiveness and a second chance ... It is one of those momentous decisions that won't just change your life, it will make your life ... everything it could have and should have been to begin with. Why would we want to "go it alone" anymore, when we already*

*know what that's been like up until now? Come on, it's time for change.*



# The most memorable quote, ever, by

## Dr. Robert H. Schuller (Senior)

From Part-I of “What’s So Special About Jesus Christ ?”

*This message was aired on the **Hour of Power**, March 4, 2000, from the **Crystal Cathedral**.*

“ Now I’m wondering where you are. Many people listening to me here and over the Hour of Power telecast around the world have respect for Jesus. They’ve heard about Him and would call themselves Christians. But their Christian belief is not at a level where it transforms them. Your relationship with Jesus Christ must be the most important thing in your life. / *hope you receive my message loud and clear.* Some of you are like a little toddler in your relationship with God. A little toddler learns to stand on his feet and tries to walk by grabbing hold of the finger of his father. That’s where some of you are. You are just holding on to a finger of God. I want for you to grow in your faith and move to grasping the hand of Jesus Christ. He is the most hospitable person! His hospitality is a gift of abundant life.

It is a gift that you can’t earn. A gift that you can’t work for. It is a gift, so say, “thank you,” and take it. That’s where some of you have to begin. All alone, wherever you are in your private life, get into the habit of talking privately to Jesus Christ. **“I am the door, come in.”** He says.

I know Jesus Christ lived, no doubt !

I know Jesus Christ died, no doubt !

I am positive that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is a great historical reality. NOT virtual reality - REAL reality.

I believe Jesus Christ is still alive !

I believe Jesus Christ can connect with anyone of the six billion people on planet earth.

I’m connected with him.

Believe that Jesus Christ can connect with you and He is saying to you:

**“I am the door. By Me, if anyone enters in, he will be saved. (John 10:9)**

**“I have come that you may have life abundantly.” (John 10:10)**

Don’t worry about theology. Don’t feel guilty about the sins that you may have committed. Don’t stop and say, “But I don’t know the Bible.” Just focus on the living Christ. Talk to Him. Give your heart to Him. Embrace Him. That’s all the advice I have for you. No heavy theology ... let Him be your Lord. “

# "If I were a woman"

By Dr. T.L. Osborn. © 1990 OSFO Intl. All Rights Reserved

Two thousand years ago, Jesus Christ provided total liberation for any man or woman who believes in Him. [John. 8:36](#), [Gal. 5:1](#) but, outdated church tradition still holds womankind responsible for the fall of humanity, and forbids women to preach or to teach the Gospel.

If I were a woman, I would embrace my **total salvation** by trusting in Christ's sacrifice for me, and act on His commands. I would never acquiesce to any doctrine, teaching, or cultural tradition which restricts me as Christ's witness, as His representative, ambassador or co-worker in any private or **public** ministry to which He calls me. If I were a woman, I would respond to the wonderful fact that God's Son died for my sins [Ro. 4:25](#) by receiving Him as my Lord and Savior. [John. 1:12](#) I would accept the fact that I am totally reconciled to God by Jesus' death on my behalf. [Col. 1:22](#), [2 Co. 5:18](#) I would embrace my new identity [2 Co. 5:17](#) as a believer in Christ. Redeemed through His shed Blood, with all the inherited rights, privileges and responsibilities of any believer, male or female in God's Royal Family. [Col. 1:12](#)

Male manipulation of womankind has permeated religions for centuries. **All religions** suppress women; discriminating against them as inferior, unworthy or second rate. Whatever religion you may be, if you are a woman, you have understood, experienced, or submitted to the doctrine or dogma of female subjugation. Contrary to this, **Christ's message**, the **Gospel message**, declares that when a person believes in Jesus, they are **totally redeemed**. Women, the same as men, are justified and restored to God as though no sin had ever been committed. [Col. 1:21-23](#)

Jesus commanded, **Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature**. [Mk. 16:15](#) Both sexes, all races, and any skin color. Jesus promised His followers, **You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witnesses ... to the ends of the earth**. [Acts 1:8](#)

Believing women were present the day that this was first fulfilled. [Acts 1:14](#) The women, as well as the men, were all filled with the Holy Spirit. [Acts 2:4](#) In male dominated Jewish culture, this was revolutionary! Jesus used the word **witness**, in a culture where women were forbidden to be witnesses in a court of law. But having redeemed and restored them to God, Jesus qualifies any Spirit filled woman believer to be **His witness**; anywhere on earth. [Col. 1:12,2 Co. 5:19-20, Mtt. 28:19-20](#)

The word He used for witness means; to preach, to teach, to tell, to speak, to demonstrate, to work miracles, to give proof of His resurrection in the form of testimony or evidence. Both male **and female** believers are commissioned and empowered for the same purpose. [Mk. 16:17](#) How else could Jesus' promise be fulfilled; **Anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing.** [John. 14:12](#)

He said, **These signs will accompany those who believe.** [Mk. 16:17](#)

This includes Christ's female disciples, **the same** as it does the male disciples.

Jesus values a woman **the same** as a man. He wants to work with women **the same** as men. He will endorse a woman **the same** as a man.

The first person to see and talk with the resurrected Christ was a woman. [John. 20:1](#) The first person to proclaim the Gospel was a woman. [Mth. 28:8](#) The first European believer was a woman. [Acts 16:14](#)

Jesus has provided the only way a woman can be truly liberated and fulfilled. Faith in His death and resurrection destroys the power of evil over any believing person. The Holy Bible tells us: **In the beginning, God made man in His own image ... male and female He created them.** [Gen. 1:27](#)

From the dawn of human history, God's ideal was a man and a woman side by side; working and living together, loving and playing together; companionship, teamwork, intimacy, partnership. God never created womankind to be the slave or the servant of mankind. A godly marriage is one woman and one man sharing life together, in love, mutual respect, and in fellowship with God. That was God's beautiful, and original vision.

Adam & Eve, the first couple, esteemed each other. They were one flesh, one kind of being, but they disobeyed God, and were driven out of the Garden of Eden, because they could no longer live in God's presence. Since they had sinned, they became slaves of Satan, whom they chose to obey, and their troubles increased. Lust began to replace love. Greed and evil usurped good. Because of man's fallen nature and larger physique, he subjugated woman for his own advantage and pleasure.

Deterioration and death passed to all succeeding generations.

**The wages of sin is death.** [Ro. 6:23](#) **Just as sin entered the world through one man, (Adam) and death through sin, so death came upon all men, because all had sinned.** [Ro. 5:12](#)

Thank God, Jesus provided perfect redemption for all people.<sup>1 Peter. 2:24</sup>

He endured the judgment for all of our sins, <sup>Heb. 9:27-28</sup> **those of women**, as well as those of men. By faith in Him, men and women are restored to God; to share His life, to do His work, and be His instruments; without social, racial or sexual distinction. On the Cross, Jesus abolished female subservience forever. <sup>Eph. 2:15-19</sup> But women, even Christian women, still bear the stigma of inferiority because traditional preachers and theologians have not grasped and emphasized the **Gospel fact** that Christ's redemption restores **women** to their original place with God, the **same as men**.

Paul emphasizes the **equality of redemption** through faith in Christ:-

**We are no longer Jews or Greeks, or slaves or free, or even men or women, but we are all the same, we are Christians: we are one in Christ.** <sup>Ga. 3:28 LB</sup>

Pontificating pundits point to two brief statements of Paul, <sup>1 Co. 14:34, 1 Ti. 2:12</sup> taken out of **cultural context** and misapplied, to keep modern women silent in churches, and shackled to house duties. Aborting the plan of God for them, and effectively negating their full redemption, purchased by the precious Blood of God's Son.

Paul **never** intended to silence women **in general**; that would have been a contradiction of his own revelation of redemption, and of the direct commands of Christ. <sup>Mtt. 28:20, Mk. 16:15, Ac. 1:8</sup>

Should educated Christian women acquiesce to sexual discrimination in God's work, and bow to religious subservience, because prejudicial male preachers have misconstrued Paul's words, to **imply a contradiction** of all his own teaching about redemption of both men and women?

Can believing women permit persons, or institutions to limit and stifle their witness for Christ, **who first chose a woman** to proclaim the greatest message of Christianity . . . that He is risen? <sup>John. 20:17</sup>

Are Christian women to be silent in God's work today when so many women in the Bible were His messengers?

Can believing women afford to bow to discrimination in the church world, whilst their equality in the secular world is a fact of life?

Is it possible for a believing woman to use Paul's words as an **excuse** for her own lack of courage to become fully involved in proclaiming Christ?



## If I were a woman, here are seven positions I would assume with all sincerity.

1. If I were a woman, I would receive Jesus Christ, God's Son, as my Lord and Savior. I would recognize His full redemptive work on my behalf. I would embrace my identity as a believer in Christ.
2. If I were a woman, who has believed in Christ, I would consider myself a Christian, a follower of Christ, **His witness**, and a messenger of His resurrection to **every creature**.
3. If I were a woman, I would embrace the fact that Christ lives in me, He serves through me, He speaks through me, He loves through me, and ministers through me; that my body is His body; that He is free to continue His same ministry through me that He exercised in Bible times.
4. If I were a woman, I would do what Christ told me to do as a believer, even if I was criticized for it. Christ suffered reproach for me. No servant is above his or her Master. [Mtt. 10:24](#)
5. If I were a woman, I would receive and be **filled with** the Holy Spirit to become Christ's witness **to the ends of the earth**. [Acts 1:8](#)
6. If I were a woman, I would note that Jesus never made a difference between the sexes. I would be impressed by the different women who were associated with His life and ministry. I would be like the woman of Samaria who, as soon as she believed, **evangelized a whole city for Jesus**.
7. If I were a woman, I would never allow any voice, edict, dogma, rule or doctrine to limit the exercise of my authority as Christ's **witness**, private or public, or to suppress my Christian ministry to people anywhere.

Jesus commissions men and women alike to go out where the people are, to tell the whole world the Good News of redemption.



So, what are you waiting for? God wants you to know that you are most welcome to be part of Heaven's family, and to spread the good news to all your sisters and brothers. **You can do it!** *God Bless*

The website [www.NaughtyNun.com](http://www.NaughtyNun.com) was bought by us on February 16<sup>th</sup> 2001. We decommissioned it and then rededicated it to serving the emotional and spiritual needs of women and teenage girls – the very one's targeted for exploitation by it's "ancestor", the porn-site. This was not popular with some established church's. I remember well how a certain pastor's wife from Texas was quite upset with us, and yet others took to *looking down their noses at us*. Yes, it is considered controversial, to be sure, since many churches just simply do not openly discuss Sex - but they do often use it to try to control people by apportioning guilt, laying blame, condemning people to hell ... all the time, while telling anyone that will listen, how *very morally good they are in God's eyes* for not having done "such terrible sinful things". Funny though, our Christian founder, Jesus, never acted that way. In fact, He never once angrily chastised any woman for any sexual sins, let alone condemn them to hell, though, as God's Son, He had full authority to do so. Why then do some preachers call themselves Christians and then act so unlike Jesus ? In fact most are acting exactly like the religious leaders that terrorized people when Jesus was on earth ... and Jesus did lay into them quite often, and quite angrily ! So, I suspect that Jesus would find their behavior just as reprehensible today as then. You know, in the story of the *Garden of Eden*, Adam was just as guilty as Eve, though he did turn around and blame her awful fast ... so what's new?

It's took a lot of emotional energy to write all these thoughts down, but I can truthfully tell you that these writings of "mine" come about by "inspiration" and not "perspiration". Anybody who knew me in my youth will tell you that I had a major problem expressing emotions in writing, though talking about or physically expressing emotions was never a problem. It feels like one of the neatest thing I have ever done in my entire life ... and I have indeed enjoyed a truly adventure-filled life ! It has been a labor of love, and I pray and hope you see it that way too. You know, I have nothing to gain by telling you these things, and nothing to loose if you choose to ignore them. The gains and losses are entirely yours. I pray you choose a guilt-free, blessed, fulfilling, love-filled life. It is a fact that men and women are created exactly equal in their propensity to sin ... or to do good. **God created us that way**, and we all (Women and Men) regularly get to choose between good and evil – on a daily basis ... *so, let's choose God's way*. May God Bless you and your loved ones! ❤️