

Adultery IS Fornication according to Hermas, an early church father

By WmTipton

Assertions/Conclusions of this article:

We believe that "adultery" is the very same act as "fornication" when it is carried out by a married person with someone who they aren't married to. We also believe that the early church fathers taught this fact.

Our view is in direct conflict with many doctrines out there that claim that Adultery and Fornication are two unrelated things. They believe that sexual sin inside marriage is adultery, and that fornication is a premarital sin alone. This group often uses the Early Church Fathers teachings as evidence for their views, so we wanted to find out if these ECFs did actually claim that fornication is adultery when it is a married person who commits it.

Supporting evidence:

Fornication in the KJV NT is the greek word 'porneia' (g4202)

This is taken from a discussion with an internet forum poster:

LASTBLAST: :Just for the record again: I do not believe "porneia" is adultery within a lawful marriage and that is why I think you are having trouble understanding how I see this.

And yet these ECFs that you commonly quote seem to disagree entirely.....

HERMAS

On Putting One's Wife Away for Adultery.

Chap. I.

...And I said to him, "Sir, if any one has a wife who trusts in the Lord, and if he detect **her in adultery**, does the man sin if he continue to live with her?" And he said to me, "As long as he remains ignorant of her sin, the husband commits no transgression in living with her. But if the husband know that his wife has gone astray, and if the woman does not repent, but persists in **her fornication**, and yet the husband continues to live with her, he also is guilty of her crime, and a sharer in **her adultery**."

Notice that Hermas used both terms in speaking about this wifes sexual sin.

Clearly hometaking had already ocured since it plainly asks if he should continue to live with her, so we dont have to worry about someone claiming that this was simply a betrothed wife.

Hermas seemed to use 'fornication' and 'adultery' in such a manner as they were one and the same WITHIN a marriage.

The purpose here is to show, since many of the anti-remarriage camp use the ECFs words so often, that even these ECFs saw adultery as 'fornication'and that whether folks today try to limit 'fornication' or porneia to 'unlawful marriage' , incest, ect.

Porneia (fornication) includes ALL sexual immorality, adultery as well.

Even the ECFs understood that apparently.