

## Comparing Fornication and Adultery.

By WmTipton

I've read so much mindnumbing absurdity on the web just trying to do a search for a young woman on the word porneia (fornication in your KJV NT) that I figured I'd do a short page on this one.

There are about 500,000 sites out there stating that because fornication and adultery are sometimes used in the same passage that they cannot be the same thing....this is completely errant.

God's word says "You shall not commit adultery"...pretty simple.

Adultery as far as sexual issues goes is a marriage specific crime whereby at least one of the parties engages in sexual relations with someone other than their covenant spouse.

Fornication (Porneia) is simply just general sexual sin....it pretty much covers just about any sin that is relating to sexual matters where it is not with a lawfully wedding spouse.

When the married person commits 'fornication' this is the crime of 'adultery'.

To say that if they both are used in the same sentence MUST mean that they are 'different' is absurd.

Here's a little sentence to prove my point using 'theft' (a general crime) and "embezzlement" (a specific crime) and a couple others to prove a point.

"His theft included Embezzlement and Grand Larceny"

Now....in that sentence we used the general crime and the specific crime together...did using them both in the same sentence change the meaning of either? No, it did not.

Did 'theft' have to be altered in order to accommodate 'Embezzlement' ?

Is 'theft' included in the meaning of the specific crime of embezzlement? Yes it is.

Now if I say something like this....

His list of crimes include; Theft, Grand Larceny, Embezzlement & Battery

...was the meaning and intent of 'theft' altered in any way when I stated 'embezzlement' or the related crime of grand larceny ?

Not at all....each has its own specific meaning, and all of the specific ones INCLUDE 'theft' in their intent.

The man's crimes DID include theft, embezzlement and grand larceny...neither nullifies the other in that sentence.

It's quite the same with the exception clause and the two sexual sins.

When someone divorces their spouse frivolously (for every cause) and then remarries, they commit the marriage specific crime of adultery AGAINST that person (if neither is married adultery isn't possible) and that union UNLESS whoredom is involved....it's really that simple.

If I say to you "DON'T commit adultery, whoredom, theft, etc....do you see any need for the definition of whoredom to have to be altered from 'sexual sin' to anything else simply because the marriage specific crime is listed alongside it?

Adultery is a marriage specific crime that is committed when fornication is committed by a married individual....it's about as simple as that.

Mentioning them together in NO WAY alters the meaning or intent of either.

It would be completely sufficient to use whoredom (fornication, porneia) alone..as Paul does in Acts 15 and also in the letters to the Ephesians and Colossians where no mention of adultery exists at all...or one could toss in the marriage specific crime of adultery and it would not alter the meaning and intent of fornication in the least.

It would be no different than me saying to you "do not commit theft, embezzlement or grand larceny" and you being able to see that each has its own specific meaning, but 'theft' IS included in the more specific crimes listed there.