

Enoch Walked With God

Two Old Testament persons are said to have been taken directly to heaven without dying - Enoch (Hebrews 11:5) and Elijah (2 Kings 2:3-11).

Genesis 5 reads like a diary of death. The life of each person closes with: "and he died". However, Enoch broke the mold. He was unique. He walked with God. Let us consider five lessons from Enoch in Genesis 5:21-24 that will help us.

First, Enoch had communion with God. He walked with God and was unified and in fellowship with God (Amos 3:3). Second, Enoch had consistency of life. He walked with God for 300 years! He was devoted to God over a long period of time. Third, Enoch had contentment in life. He walked with God because he wanted to be well-pleasing to God. He was satisfied and happy to please God, not man. Fourth, Enoch had commitment in life. He walked with God in an ungodly world. He was devoted to God in the midst of wickedness. Fifth, Enoch had communication with others. He walked with God and spoke out against the ungodly world around him (Jude 14-15).

You see, it's not how long you live that counts, but how you live. Enoch refused to live like the rest, so God made sure he did not die like the rest. Will you live like Enoch with communion, consistency, contentment, commitment, and communication in your life? - Chris Reeves

Sentence Sermons

- One who never speaks of heaven is not likely to go there.
- Our children reflect the training we give them, or the lack of it.
- Many people want what they don't need and desperately need what they don't want.
- Dignity is one thing that cannot be well-preserved in alcohol.
- Think twice before you speak.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

It's being called "the new normal" - men and women living together before and without marriage. Below is a portion of an article that documents the rise in the practice of "living together" in the 21st century.

'The new normal': Cohabitation on the rise, study finds by JoNel Aleccia in TODAY, April 4, 2013

"More women are choosing to live with men first without marriage and more of those relationships are lasting longer, according to a new government study that tracks the continuing climb of cohabitation in the U.S."

"Nearly half of women in what researchers call "first unions" with men -- 48 percent -- moved in with no wedding vows according to interviews conducted between 2006 and 2010, up from 43 percent in 2002 and 34 percent in 1995."

"About 40 percent of those relationships became marriages after three years, but about 32 percent continued as cohabitations, suggesting an important new role for the arrangement once known as "shacking up," says one researcher."

What the Bible calls "fornication", the world once called "shacking up" and now the world calls it "living together". Sometimes you will here about "cohabitation", "consenting adults" or "open relation-

ships". This is simply putting a nice name on sin. When two people "live together" and have sex outside of a God-sanctioned marriage, it is "fornication".

What is "fornication"? The word "fornication" (Greek *porneia*) means any illicit (unlawful) sexual intercourse with someone or something (like an animal) not your lawful spouse. The "unlawful" and "lawful" here is determined by God in the Bible, not man. "Fornication" can involve someone who is unmarried or married (Matthew 5:32; 19:9). If at least one of the persons having sex is married, it is also called "adultery" in the Bible.

Is fornication a sin? Absolutely. The world says, "No, sex outside of marriage is ok." But, God calls it sin. What does the Bible say about "fornication"? First, it is to be avoided by Christians (Acts 15:20, 29; 21:25). Second, it is listed as a sin worthy of death (Romans 1:29). Third, it is not to be found in the church (1 Corinthians 5:1, 9-11; 6:9; 2 Corinthians 12:20-21). Fourth, it is a work of the flesh that will keep a person out of God's kingdom (Galatians 5:19-21).

Fifth, it is not becoming of Christians (Ephesians 5:3, 5). Sixth, it is part of the old, sinful man that is to be put away (Colossians 3:5). Seventh, it will be judged severely by God (Hebrews 13:4). Seventh, it is an act needing repentance (Revelation 2:21; 9:21). Eighth, it is a filthy and corrupt sex act (Revelation 14:8; 17:4; 19:2). Lastly, it will be punishable by hell fire (Revelation 21:8; 22:15).

So, how does one stay away from fornication? First, guard your heart (Matthew 15:19; Mark 7:21). Don't pay the high cost for low living. Second, have honor and respect for your body (1 Corinthians 6:13-18; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4). Third, wait for a proper marriage (1 Corinthians 7:2; Hebrews 13:4).

Fourth, don't get caught up in the "fun" of the world (1 Corinthians 10:8), don't think "one time won't hurt" (Hebrews 12:16), and don't listen to the seductive message: "Here is how you can fornicate and really enjoy it" (Revelation 2:14,20; 17:2; 18:3,9).

Is fornication "safe sex"? No! It breaks a sacred trust (Genesis 39:8). It is a sin against God (Genesis 39:9). It ruins your reputation (Proverbs 2:16-19; 5:1-14; 20-23; 7:5-27; 9:13-18). It can get a person killed (Proverbs 6:24-35). It can harm the body with STDs. It can hurt a spouse, child, parent, and society. It can cause personal pain, guilt, burdens, and shame.

Always do what is right and don't commit fornication. Satan offers beauty, but gives ugliness. He offers power, but he gives ruin. He offers freedom, but gives slavery. He offers fun, but he gives sorrow and regret. He offers popularity, but he gives shame. He offers respect, but he gives disgrace. He promises life, but he brings death. - *Chris Reeves*