

## Chapter 12

# No more test drives!



*I Corinthians 6:18 – Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.*

**W**hen I ventured out in search of my first new car, I visited practically every car lot in Memphis. I visited car lots with American made cars and foreign made vehicles as well. Each time I arrived on the lot, an eager car salesman approached me with an offer to test drive one of his slick models. Some of the vehicles I test drove were obviously out of my league, budget wise. Others appealed to my monthly budget but didn't impress me at all with their exterior or overall driving features. Nevertheless, whether the car was too expensive or within my budget, exquisite or shabby looking, I test drove each one. Most of the cars were new but already had nearly one hundred miles already registered. My trips around the block added an additional 5 miles. When I found the car of my dreams, I made an offer that was well below the price the dealership was asking. I offered less because the car had already been driven several miles, yet it was still considered by the dealer to be a new car.

Promiscuous lovers are like the test driver in the story above. They visit car lot after car lot, church after church, club after club in search of various models/women/men. If the driver likes the way she looks on the outside, he requests a test drive to make sure the engine is working and interior is clean. All the while, he has no intention of buying the model. And, if the naked truth were revealed, he probably could not afford the car anyway. Test drivers delight, nonetheless, in taking the car around the block as many times as the dealer will allow without a commitment to buy. Oddly enough, even if the car is not appealing on the outside, it is not uncommon to find the driver taking it for a test drive to see what is under the hood. Ladies and fellow brothers, at some point, you have to stop and think about the number of miles you have accumulated and realize that your value decreases with each test drive. The more miles, the less the final offer is. As good as you may look on the exterior, the interior tells it all. Even the engine is experiencing the wear and tear of drivers who could care less about the future owner.

Actually, the whole game of test-driving is a matter of irresponsibility. The Word of God encourages men and women in I Thessalonians 4:3-4 with these words, “For this is the will of God, even your sanctification that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor (KJV). Essentially, what the writer is urging believers to do is acknowledge God’s will for their lives – to remain holy by abstaining from sexual activity not sanctioned by God. Additionally, the writer makes the point that every one of us should be able to possess our vessels with respect and responsibility. For men, our vessels are our penises and for women their vaginas. In verse 7 of this same chapter, the scripture states that “God has not called us to be impure, but to live a holy life.” God designed our bodies for His glory, not for the world’s pleasure.

If you are a man, you are to keep your vessels with responsibility. Contrary to popular belief, you are not God's gift to every woman. Keep it to yourself until such a time that God honors you with a wife, and, to her and her only do you share your gift. It is a life or death matter. Stop today! The Bible tragically records, "Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand" (KJV – I Corinthians 10:8). When 23,000 men die as a result of the world's largest orgy, it is apparent that God was displeased with a bunch of players! The scripture is referring to the book of Numbers chapter 25. The men of Israel decided to indulge in a mass sexual orgy with the heathen women in Shittim. While they were engaging in these affairs, they even bowed to their gods. While the men were being pleased by these women, they lost their sense of spiritual relationship and obligation to the one true God almighty.

Is this not how it usually goes with us as well? God is usually the last person on our minds during romantic interludes. If we are not careful, we will find ourselves doing and saying nearly anything. These acts of passion were out of the will of God – thus considered sinful. As with all sin, consequences follow. But, often times, we have no control over the type of consequence issued. This particular time, God instructed Moses to kill these promiscuous men and hang their heads in the sun for the rest of Israel to see.

There had to have been about a 1,000 men beheaded because later when God allows a plague to wipe out 23,000 more folk, Paul records the total lost as 24,000. That is a lot of people! But, many more men and women are falling and dying daily as the pandemic of promiscuous lifestyles continues even today.

The message is clear as to how God expects us to govern our bodies. From the pre-teen curious about sex to the college student experiencing his or her first instance of freedom, God