

# 1 Corinthians 6:18 Commentary

PREVIOUS

NEXT

## 1 Corinthians 6 Verse by Verse Comments

- 1 Corinthians 6:1 Commentary
- 1 Corinthians 6:2 Commentary
- 1 Corinthians 6:3 Commentary
- 1 Corinthians 6:4 Commentary
- 1 Corinthians 6:5 Commentary
- 1 Corinthians 6:6 Commentary
- 1 Corinthians 6:7 Commentary
- 1 Corinthians 6:8 Commentary
- 1 Corinthians 6:9 Commentary
- 1 Corinthians 6:10 Commentary
- 1 Corinthians 6:11 Commentary
- 1 Corinthians 6:12 Commentary
- 1 Corinthians 6:13 Commentary
- 1 Corinthians 6:14 Commentary
- 1 Corinthians 6:15 Commentary
- 1 Corinthians 6:16 Commentary
- 1 Corinthians 6:17 Commentary
- 1 Corinthians 6:18 Commentary
- 1 Corinthians 6:19 Commentary
- 1 Corinthians 6:20 Commentary
- 1 Corinthians 6:18 Commentary
- 1 Corinthians 6:19 Commentary
- 1 Corinthians 6:20 Commentary

1 Corinthians 6:18 **Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.** (NASB: Lockman)

**Greek:** [pneugete](#) (2PPAM) [ten porneian](#); [pan hamartema o ean poiese](#) (3SAAS) [anthropos ektos tou somatos estin.](#) (3SPA1) [o de porneuon](#) (PAPMSN) [eis to idion soma hamartanei.](#) (3SPA1)

**Amplified:** Shun immorality and all sexual looseness [flee from impurity in thought, word, or deed]. Any other sin which a man commits is one outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. ([Amplified Bible - Lockman](#))

**ASV:** Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

**Barclay:** Strenuously avoid fornication at all times. Every sin which a man may commit is external to his body; but the man who commits fornication sins against his own body. ([Westminster Press](#))

**Berkley:** Shun sexual immorality. All other sin a person commits outside the body, but the immoral person sins against his own body.

**BBE:** Keep away from the desires of the flesh. Every sin which a man does is outside of the body; but he who goes after the desires of the flesh does evil to his body.

**ESV:** Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. ([ESV](#))

**GWT:** Stay away from sexual sins. Other sins that people commit don't affect their bodies the same way sexual sins do. People who sin sexually sin against their own bodies. ([GWT](#))

**ISV:** Keep on running away from sexual immorality. Any other sin that a person commits is outside his body, but the person who sins sexually sins against his own body.

**KJV:** Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

**Moffatt:** Shun immorality! Any other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his body.

**NLT:** Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. ([NLT - Tyndale House](#))

**Phillips:** Avoid sexual looseness like the plague! Every other sin that a man commits is done outside his own body, but this is an offence against his own body. ([Phillips: Touchstone](#))

**TLB:** That is why I say to run from sex sin. No other sin affects the body as this one does. When you sin this sin it is against your own body.

**Wuest:** Be fleeing from fornication. Every act of sin which a man may do is outside of his body, but he who commits fornication is sinning against his own body. ([Eerdmans Publishing](#) - used [by permission](#))

**Young's Literal:** flee the whoredom; every sin--whatever a man may commit--is without the body, and he who is committing whoredom, against his own body doth sin.

## **FLEE IMMORALITY: pheugete (2PPAM) ten porneian)**

- Ge 39:12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18; Pr 2:16, 16, 17, 18, 19; 5:3-15; 6:24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32; 7:5-23,24, 25, 26, 27; 9:16, 17, 18; Ro 6:12,13; 2Ti 2:22; Hebrews 13:4; 1Pe 2:11
- [1 Corinthians 6 Resources](#) - Multiple Sermons and Commentaries
- [1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Christian Liberty and Sexual Freedom](#) - John MacArthur
- [1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Christian Liberty and Sexual Freedom - Study Guide](#) - John MacArthur
- Click for additional on site commentary on 1 Cor 6:18

### **Related Passages:**

Job 31:1+; Matthew 5:28+; Romans 6:16+; 1 Corinthians 6:18; Colossians 3:5+; Hebrews 13:4+; 1 Peter 2:11+; 2 Peter 2:19+



**RUN FOR YOUR LIFE  
FOR YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT!**

### **Recommended Resource:**

- [Slow Fade by Casting Crowns](#) - Powerful Video with Superb Lyrics
- Pastors - play this video Before or After Sermon on 1Co 6:18-20 - someone in your congregation will be convicted!

### **THE IMMEDIATE CORINTHIAN CONTEXT**

First let's examine the **context** (1Co 6:12-17) which is vital if one seeks to accurately interpret an isolated verse or group of verses such as 1Co 6:18-20.

Paul had just reminded the Corinthian church of the radical supernatural transformation that had transpired in them when they were born again (washed, sanctified, justified - **Read** 1Co 6:9, 10, 11).

**Warren Wiersbe** explains the cultural background noting that "There was a great deal of sexual laxness in the city of Corinth. It was a permissive society with a philosophy similar to that which the world has today: Sex is a normal physical function, so why not use it as you please? Paul pointed out that God created sex when He made the first man and woman, and therefore He has the right to tell

us how to use it. The Bible is the "owner's manual" and it must be obeyed. ([Bible Exposition Commentary](#))

In light of the Corinthians' "so great a salvation" [He 2:3-note] which brought new freedom/liberty in Christ [Ga 5:1, Jn 8:36 - Freedom in Christ is not the right to do as one pleases but the power to do as one should!], **MacArthur** feels that

in this section, Paul exposed the error in the Corinthian Christians' rationalization (argument) that they were free to sin (cp Paul's warning to the Galatian Christians - Ga 5:13), because it was covered by God's grace (cp Ro 5:20-note, Ro 6:1, 2-note).

**Vine** adds that "The idea of Christian liberty had been perverted by some in the assembly, as well as by opponents (cp Ro 3:8-note, Col 2:8-note, Col 2:23-note), and had been made an excuse for license (cp Jude 1:3). Accordingly, the apostle sets forth the true significance and scope of liberty in Christ and the character and purpose of the body of the believer.

## 1 Corinthians 6:12-17

**1 Co 6:12 All things are lawful for me** (Speaks of one's freedom/liberty in Christ and may have been a slogan used in the Corinthian church to justify immoral behavior especially use of cult prostitutes in a culture where such behavior was readily accepted as a "religious" exercise in which one was simply visiting the "temple priestesses [prostitutes]"! Paul use of this phrase clearly does not legitimize things that are sinful, but not all things are profitable (Some things might be allowable by God and yet not be profitable. So Paul lays down a principle that one must ask in light of our freedom in Christ - "Is it beneficial, expedient, good for my spiritual life?" cp Php 4:8-note; 1Th 5:21-note; Ro 12:9-note). All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything (This should prompt the question "Will this activity enslave me?").

**John MacArthur** sees this statement by Paul (1Co 6:12) as referring primarily to sexual sin which was rampant in Corinth (and was tempting to the believer's in the context of the permissive Corinthian culture and their new found freedom/liberty in Christ) writing that...

Sin has power. The word means "mastered" (cf. Ro 6:14-note), and no sin is more enslaving than sexual sin. While it can never be the unbroken pattern of a true believer's life, it can be the recurring habit that saps joy, peace, usefulness and brings divine chastening and even church discipline (cf. 1Co 5:1ff.). See notes on 1Th 4:3, 4, 5-note. Sexual sin controls, so the believer must never allow sin to have that control, but must master it in the Lord's strength (1Co 9:27). Paul categorically rejects the ungodly notion that freedom in Christ gives license to sin (cf. Ro 7:6-note; Ro 8:13-note, Ro 8:21-note).

**1Cor 6:13** Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food (food is needed for the body and thus they are naturally suited one to the other and we are at liberty to use food), but God will do away with both of them (Food is lawful and profitable but its value is temporary and believers are not to live as if the greatest thing in life is to gratify their appetites [e.g., gluttony]). (Now Paul passes on to what is not lawful for the body and in fact is sin) Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body.

**Wiersbe** feels that this was the second argument the Corinthians used to defend their freedom to frequent the temple prostitutes (the first being "All things are permissible"... including temple prostitutes!)...

Their second argument was, "Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats" (1Co 6:13). They treated sex as an appetite to be satisfied and not as a gift to be cherished and used carefully. Sensuality is to sex what gluttony is to eating; both are sinful and both bring disastrous consequences. Just because we have certain normal desires, given by God at Creation, does not mean that we must give in to them and always satisfy them. Sex outside of marriage is destructive, while sex in marriage can be creative and beautiful. ([Bible Exposition Commentary](#))

**1Cor 6:14** Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power (Reminding them of the greatness of their future tense salvation, that their bodies are destined for high honor, truth which should serve to motivate present progress in holiness).

**1Cor 6:15** Do you not know (They did know) that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? May it never be!

**1Cor 6:16** Or do you not know (They did know) that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her? For He says, "THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH."

**1Cor 6:17** But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him (This "oneness" of Christ and believers reflects an inherent truth of our new covenant relationship with Christ. Paul learned something of this oneness of believers with Christ in his Damascus Road experience when Christ asked him "Why do you persecute Me?". Clearly Paul's persecution of believers who were in covenant oneness with Christ was treated by our Lord as persecution of Himself because of this mystical but real and vital union between the Head and His body. See **The Oneness of Covenant**).

**Flee** - The **present imperative** is a command calling for all believers (flee = second person plural) to continually strenuously avoid the snares strewn about by variegated sexual temptations. You may be saying "This command was written some 2000 years ago. Paul was never tempted like we are today by the plethora of pornography pervading and perverting the internet!" That's true, but beloved, God's call to holiness (Lv 11:44, 45, 1Pe 1:15, 16-note) is always "in vogue" and fleeing the evil trap of pornography (in whatever form) is part of what it means to be continually pursuing holiness (He 12:14-note).

Secondly, the well known aphorism (which is Biblical) reminds us that **"What God commands, God enables!"** Part of the problem is trying to fight the good fight in our own strength. You are correct if you are thinking but "I cannot". Indeed, **You Cannot!** Paul could not either! While Paul did not have access to the fantasy world of the internet, there was the very real world of real women, posing as religious priestess/prostitutes in a society where every man did what was right in his own eyes (cp Jdg 21:25-note). If we think morals are "loose" today (and they are, and are growing "looser!"), the morals of the Corinthian society were so depraved that they birthed a new verb **"corinthianize"** meaning to practice sexual immorality or engage in sexually promiscuous behavior! Such was the norm in Paul's day.

And so Paul was tempted just as men today are tempted. And so the command remains in effect - **Flee**, which the English dictionaries say means to run away from danger or evil, scurrying to a place of security! (cp Pr 18:10-note) So believers today (primarily this addresses men, but women are not immune!) are charged to run away from email pornography spamming their computer, etc, etc. We are called to shun the evil and pursue that which is holy (1Pe 2:11-note), for we are being prepared for another world, a holy world, a forever world. And so we must acknowledge the weakness of our **fallen flesh** to even be able to flee (cp similar principle in Zech 4:6). Yes as believers we are commanded to continually work out our salvation in fear and trembling (Php 2:12-note), by fleeing, running, shunning, etc, from the strong temptations to gratify our God given desires. But beloved, praise God, we are not left to our own flesh driven mental ingenuity, but can (and must) trust God's Spirit to give us the desire and the power to run (Php 2:13-note, cp Ezekiel 36:27, Ro 8:13-note, Gal 5:16-note, Gal 5:17-note). The more I study these Scriptures, the more mysterious becomes the unarguable juxtaposition of man's (my) responsibility and God's sovereignty (His provision of everything necessary for life and godliness 2Pe 1:3-note). So let us continually surrender to the wooing of the Spirit, that we might be protected and enabled to fend off and run from the seductive wooing of the flesh. For the glory of His Name and the holiness of His Church, the Bride of Christ, who is to be making her wedding dress spotless by her righteous (God energized) deeds (cp Rev 19:7, 8-note; see **Good Deeds**).

Now **flee** does not mean stay put and rationalize such a foolish course of action by saying "Steel is tempered by heat and thereby becomes stronger. I'll stand fast and become stronger by resisting the fiery temptation". **Wrong!** That is not Biblical and is a "surefire" guarantee for moral failure, dear believer! Yes, you are correct, God tells us to **"Resist the tempter"** (Jas 4:7-note) **but not** the "temptation" to sexual sin. Instead "flee from the temptress" (cp Pr 5:8-note, Pr 6:25-note; Pr 7:25-note). We are called not to a moderate degree of resistance to immorality, but to radical separation from it. The command says to "flee" not "flirt" with fornication!

**Vice is a monster of so frightful mien\*,  
As to be hated needs but to be seen;  
Yet seen too oft, familiar with her face,  
We first endure, then pity, then embrace.**

(\*Mien = air or bearing especially as expressive of attitude or personality)

**Flee** (escape) ([5343](#)) (**pheugo**) means to flee away in the sense of to take to flight in order to seek safety. To flee in the sense of to escape something, being made safe from danger by eluding or avoiding it (He 11:34-note, Mt 3:7, Acts 27:30). To flee in the sense of to avoid, shun (Webster says "shun" = to avoid deliberately and especially habitually), have nothing to do with (1Co 6:18). To vanish or disappear (Re 16:20-note, Re 20:11-note). **Pheugo** is the root of our English word **"fugitive"** defined as one who escapes from something or someone.

**CHRISTIAN MEN:  
FLEE FROM  
THE FIRE!**

Dear Christian reader (especially the men), are you being tempted to look at internet pornography? Let's be honest, it's pervasive,

persuasive and pernicious! If any of us think we stand, we don't stand a chance! (cp 1Co 10:12) **Sin** is powerful and the old **flesh** is like smoldering coals just waiting for gasoline to be poured upon them to set them into full blaze! Men, when you barbeque, you don't put your hand in the flame to see how hot it is do you? Of course not, for you're smart enough to know you'll be burned, and can incur an injury that is incredibly painful as the fire burns down to the level of the cutaneous nerve endings (second degree burn). Now if you leave your hand in the fire too long, you actually burn even the nerve endings and lose all sense of pain (third degree burn), in one sense good in that it doesn't hurt anymore, but obviously indicative of a deeper, more serious and potentially even life threatening injury (because of propensity to infection, fluid loss, etc). Do you see where I am going (you can tell I'm a physician can't you)? Internet pornography is the "gasoline" and our **old flesh nature** is the "smoldering coal" in our physical body, just waiting to be "stoked" by even a few sensual images! (cp Job 31:1) And your heart (spiritually speaking) not your skin, is the target organ at great risk of damage! (cp Pr 4:23-note) With "second degree" exposure to the fuel of internet pornography, there is damage which includes considerable "pain" (I don't have to explain this I'm sure). But if you keep pouring fuel on the fire, eventually the "nerve endings" of your heart will be seared and you won't even "feel the pain" (or at least you are so deceived, you don't think your heart is being hurt! cp "deceitfulness of sin" He 3:13-note, Ro 7:11-note, Ep 4:22-note) (**See Related Discussion: The Deceitfulness of Sin**). This last state is worse than the first and it could even cost you your life, not to mention your marriage, your family, your reputation, etc! Paul, like a fire inspector, is saying to all Christian men "Don't try to test the flames to see if they are hot enough to burn you. Instead, flee the flame, lest you get severely burned, beloved!" (**Related Resource: [Act Like a Man on the Internet](#)**)

**Robertson and Plummer** put it this way "**Do not stop to dispute about it; make a practice** [present imperative] **of flying at once.**" So also of **idolatry**, which was so closely allied with impurity, (1Co 10:14). The asyndeton (omission of the conjunctions that ordinarily join coordinate words or clauses as in "I came, I saw, I conquered") marks the urgency. cf. 1Th 4:3-note. (**[A critical and exegetical commentary - page 127](#)**)

**Ray Pritchard** - In sexual temptation, the "way of escape" may only last a moment. The sad story of Samson reminds us of what happens a man keeps making the wrong choices. It's too late to decide to do right when you wake up with your head in Delilah's lap. At that point his doom was sealed. The same thing happens to any of us when we let our emotions drive our decisions. But for a moment, before you put the pedal to the metal and go wild, the way of escape is always there. That's why the Bible tells us to "flee from sexual immorality" (1Corinthians 6:18) and "flee the evil desires of youth" (2Timothy 2:22). (**[From Temptation to Triumph by Dr. Ray Pritchard - November 1996](#)**)

**NIDNTT** has the following excerpt on the use of pheugo in classic Greek - "(cf. Lat. fugere). From the time of Homer, its most common meaning is "flee", "take flight", whether absolutely, or from someone or something (Homer, Plato, Herodotus, etc.). The present and imperfect tenses often express only the purpose or endeavor to get away. Hence the compounds apopheugo, katapheugo, ekpheugo, or propheugo may be added to the participle pheugon in a sentence to denote the escape itself. The accusative (and occasionally the genitive) with pheugo specifies that which is being "shunned", "escaped from", or "avoided"-whether death and war (Homer), evil (Demosthenes), or the consequences of murder (Euripides). Metaphorically reins may "escape from" the hands of the charioteer. Because a person may flee his country, the articular participle refers to "the exile(s)" (Homer, Xenophon, Thucydides); and since such people may well have been banished, by a natural extension the active verb itself takes on the quasi-passive force of "be banished", "be expelled" (Herodotus, Xenophon, Dinarchus). Similarly phuge comes to mean "exile", "banishment". In Attic Greek, both pheugo and apopheugo occur as law-terms. The pheugon is the defendant, as opposed to the diokon, the prosecutor; and pheugein graphen (or diken) means "to be put on trial", while an added genitive (e.g. phonou, murder) specifies the charge. To escape the prosecutors therefore means "to be acquitted". (**[Brown, Colin, Editor. New International Dictionary of NT Theology. 1986. Zondervan](#)**)

**Guzik** - "Paul doesn't tell us to be brave and resist the lustful passion of sexual immorality, but to flee from its very presence. Many have fallen because they underestimated the power of lustful passion, or thought they would "test" themselves and see how much they could "take." Instead, we should follow the example of Joseph, who fled from sexual immorality - even when it cost him something to do so (Genesis 39:7-21). "Some sins, or solicitations to sin, may be reasoned with; in the above cases, if you parley you are undone; reason not, but fly!" (Clarke) Paul does not say that Christians should flee sex, only sexual immorality. God gave sex as a precious gift to mankind, and uses it powerfully to bond husband and wife together in a true one-flesh relationship. So as Hebrews 13:4 says, the marriage bed is undefiled - the sexual relationship between husband and wife is pure, holy, and good before God. But sexual immorality works against God's good purpose for sex, working against a true, godly one-flesh relationship. Sex outside of marriage can be exciting, but it can't be enriching. We are reminded Paul uses the Greek word porneia, which refers to a broad range of sexual sin. To flee sexual immorality means more than just to not have sexual intercourse with someone we are not married to. It means to flee sexual gratification short of, or apart from, intercourse with someone we are not married to. It means to flee sexual gratification or thrills one might find from pornographic videos, movies, magazines, books, or Internet materials.

**Cathers** - Run from sin. Run from temptation. Don't stay and savor it. When Joseph was cornered by Potiphar's wife, she grabbed him and begged him to sleep with her. He left his coat in her hand and ran. We would be wise to do the same.

**Before Christ**  
**We chased after sin.**  
**Now after Christ**  
**Sin chases after us!**

**Ambrose** - Only by a swift flight can we shun the savagery of such a rabid mistress and escape from such vile servitude. (Bray, G. L. 1-2 Corinthians. Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture NT 7. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press)

**Paul's** instruction about sexual relations within marriage alludes to his concern over the danger of porneia in the marriage writing that...

because of **immoralities (porneia)**, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband. (1Co 7:2) (Sex in marriage is God's "safety net" to keep us from falling into the sexual sin that entangles and corrupts this fallen world.)

**Stop depriving** (present imperative + negative = stop something that you are already doing) one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt (peirazo [word study] - Satan always tests us to cause harm. When God tests us that is never His goal. - Jas 1:13-note) you because of your lack of self-control (cp need for dependence on the Holy Spirit Gal 5:23-note). (1Co 7:5)

Paul used **pheugo** three other times all in the form of a **present imperative** command (make this your habitual practice - implies also that these things are always "dangerous" to our spiritual life - **and the only way to accomplish this daily is by surrender to the control of the Holy Spirit! Have you met with Him yet today? Have you ask Him to lead you not into temptation too difficult to resist? Have you ask Him to deliver you from evil?**) for believers to...

(1) **Flee from idolatry** - Therefore, my beloved, **flee** from idolatry. (1Co 10:14) (An idol is anything/anyone that takes the place of God your heart).

(2) **Flee from love of money** - But **flee** from these things, you man of God; and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness. (1Ti 6:11)

(3) **Flee from youthful lusts** - Now **flee** from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. (2Ti 2:22)

**Immorality** (4202) (**porneia [word study]** from **porneuo** = to commit fornication, to play the harlot <> from **pornos** = a male prostitute) originally referred to any excessive behavior or lack of restraint, but eventually became associated with sexual excess and indulgence, of every kind of extramarital, unlawful, or unnatural sexual intercourse. Our English word **pornography** is derived from **porneia** + **graph** = a writing and thus pornography (or colloquially "porn") is thus a writing (or picture) about sexual sin. Christianity brought chastity into the world of pagan idolatry where sexual **immorality** was not only condoned, but regarded as normal. Sadly, twentieth-century America has reverted back to the "normality of sexual immorality" and the revival fire of the Christian faith is desperately needed.

**Porneia** includes including (but not limited to) adultery, premarital sex, homosexuality, bestiality, incest, and prostitution. As an aside, porneia refers primarily to sins of the flesh, but those sins can never be divorced from the sins of the mind or heart, because all sin is related. Sin in one area always makes us more susceptible to sin in other areas.

In Paul's day, prostitution and fornication were considered permissible activities. A married man in Greece could engage in extramarital sexual intercourse as much as he wished, but this practice was forbidden for the wife! Athenaeus, a writer in the second century AD, quotes from a speech of Demosthenes,

We keep mistresses for pleasure, concubines for daily concubinage, but wives we have in order to produce children legitimately and to have a trustworthy guardian of our domestic property.

**Kenneth Wuest** records that "The moral life of the Greco-Roman world had sunk so low that, while protests against the prevailing corruption were never entirely wanting, fornication had long come to be regarded as a matter of moral indifference, and was indulged in without shame or scruple, not only by the mass, but by philosophers and men of distinction who in other respects led exemplary lives. ([Wuest Word Studies - Eerdmans Publishing Company Volume 1](#), [Volume 2](#), [Volume 3](#) - used [by permission](#))

In Acts the early church condemned all sexual experimentation outside of marriage James declaring that the Gentiles who were turning to God from idols be instructed

that they abstain from things contaminated by idols and from **fornication (porneia** - in this context the

reference is to sexual sins in general but orgies that were associated with the worship of the pagan idols) and from what is strangled and from blood. (Acts 15:20)

In Paul's day Corinth was like much of our culture today, for people were strongly intent on having their own ways, doing what was right in their own eyes, and this aberrant behavior was especially manifest in fulfilling their physical lust. Corinth was so conspicuous for its immorality that to "**corinthianize**" was the term for reckless debauchery. And so sexual permissiveness was rampant and then, as now the church was not unaffected. Sensuality in the guise of religion was rife. And so Paul writing to the Corinthian church declared...

It is actually reported that there is **immorality** (porneia) among you, and **immorality** (porneia) of such a kind as does not exist even among the Gentiles, that someone has (present tense = an ongoing, habitual activity) his father's wife. (1Cor 5:1 read the entire chapter [1Cor 5:1-13] which is devoted to immorality in the church and specifically is directed not so much to those committing immorality but to the church who stood by doing nothing about it and in fact arrogantly refusing to do anything about it!)

In 1Corinthians 5 Paul addresses a form of incest, because a man was living with his father's wife, specifically his stepmother. Sexual relations between a man and his stepmother are in the same category as relations between him and his natural mother and anyone guilty of those or other sexual "abominations" was to be cut off from his people (Lev 18:7, 8,29), a reference to capital punishment. From Cicero we know that such incest was even strictly forbidden among the perverted pagan culture by Roman law!

An excellent illustration of **fleeing immorality** is found in the account of Joseph when he was tempted to sin by Potiphar's wife Joseph addressing her advances declared

There is no one greater in this house than I, and he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. **How then could I do this great evil, and sin against God?** (Joseph feared Jehovah and so turned away from evil, cf Job 1:1 Why is there such a problem with porneia even in Christian circles? There is minimal to know healthy fear of God. See 2Cor 7:1) 10 And it came about as she spoke to Joseph day after day, that he did not listen to her to lie beside her, or be with her.11 Now it happened one day that he went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the household was there inside.12 And she caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me!" And he left his garment in her hand and **fled**, and went outside.) (Genesis 39:9, 10, 11, 12)

It is like the pastor who cautioned his handsome new assistant about the dangers of immorality in the ministry. The assistant said that he always did his socializing in a group setting and concluded that "there is safety in **numbers.**" The wise pastor replied, "Yes, that is so, but there is more safety in **Exodus!**" While there may be safety in numbers, sometimes there is more safety in flight!

How serious is **immorality**? Paul's rhetorical question indicates the consequences can be eternally serious asking...

Or do you not know that the unrighteous **shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived;** (**present imperative** + a negative = Stop being led astray by "politically correct", seemingly plausible reasoning that covers up these sins with such rationalizations like "Everyone's doing it" or "What we do behind closed doors is no one else's business" [Wrong! cp Ge 16:13, Pr 5:21-note, Pr 15:3, Heb 4:13-note Job 34:21 = there is no such thing as a "secret sin" with the all seeing God Je 16:17, 23:24 - Note the contrast = 2Chr 16:9, 8, 10], implying that some already were deceiving themselves with the following false, deadly "doctrine" of demons) neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, **shall inherit the kingdom of God.** (1Cor 6:9, 10)

**William MacDonald** commenting on the preceding passage in first Corinthians explaining that Paul...

does not mean to imply that Christians can practice such sins and **be lost** (cp eternal security in Jn 10:27, 28, 29), but rather he is saying that people who practice (present tense = habitually, as their lifestyle) such sins are **not** Christians. ([MacDonald, W & Farstad, A. Believer's Bible Commentary: Thomas Nelson](#))

**Comment:** God is not saying anyone who has ever committed any of these sins is doomed and destined for eternal separation from Him, but He is saying that the one who practices these acts as their lifestyle should not be surprised at where they "wake up" after they've taken their last breath on this earth! Cp 1John 3:7, 8, 9, 10, where every the present tense is used repeatedly - e.g., "practices sin" means to continually, without ever experiencing any "change of direction". "Cannot sin" does not say a believer never sins but that he or she does not habitually practice sin as their lifestyle. If we are truly new creatures in Christ, we won't experience perfection in this life, but we certainly should (and must) experience a change of "direction" in our lives! Otherwise we need to seriously study 2Cor 13:5, God's words of mercy, not judgment, so that we don't have to experience His wrath! God's desire is 2Pe 3:9-note) Dawson Trotman, founder of The Navigators (see [Born to](#)

[Reproduce](#)), put it this way

"You are going to be what you are now becoming."

What are you "becoming" dear reader?

Writing to another predominantly Gentile church immersed in a culture of blatant pagan idolatry and gross immorality (these two sins are closely linked in Scripture - see **Idolatry and Immorality** - the relationship and the antidote) Paul writes...

For this is the will of God, your sanctification (**hagiasmos [word study]** - that you should be consecrated - separated and set apart for pure and holy living); that is, that you abstain (present tense = literally continually or as the habit of your life hold oneself away) from sexual immorality (1Th 4:3-note) (Stewart rightly writes that "Holy has the same root as wholly, it means complete. A man is not complete in spiritual stature if all his mind, heart, soul, and strength are not given to God.")

## **The will of God, nothing more, nothing less, nothing else.**

As **Billy Graham** has observed...

Satan fails to speak of the remorse, the futility, the loneliness, and the spiritual devastation which go hand in hand with **immorality**.

Thus Paul warned the Ephesian saints to

not let **immorality** (porneia) or any impurity or greed even be named among you, as is proper among saints (Ep 5:3-note).

Jesus explained **porneia** declaring that

the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the **heart**, and those defile the man. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, **fornications (porneia)**, thefts, false witness, slanders. (Mt 15:18, 19)

Jesus' point is that the basis of all sin is the inner thought, not the outward act. **Porneia** begins in the heart. When a person is defiled on the inside, what he does on the outside is also defiled. And so beloved,

**Watch** (In Lxx this verb is in the **present imperative** = calling for continual watchfulness, cp Ge 4:6, 7 - picture sin like a hunger lion crouching at the door of your heart!) over your **heart** with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life. (Proverbs 4:23-note)

John records that in the last years just prior to our Lord's return indescribable sexual perversions will be running rampant. He writes that those who dwell upon the earth

did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts. (Rev 9:21 [note](#))

**Porneia** is an all-encompassing sensual or sexual immorality, a perfect description of modern day America. Let's be honest. Most men (even Christian men!) have problems with this area that they would not even dare tell anyone! When you realize that you are complete in Christ and can now say "no" to this sin, from that point on you are responsible what kind of mess you get yourself into. **And remember the best way, the Biblical way, of saying "No" to sin is by first saying "Yes" to Jesus!** Victory in the spiritual life is not so much me overcoming the problem but it is me being overcome by Christ so that now Christ in me enables me to overcome the strong temptation to sin. You don't have to live the way you once did when you were dead in your trespasses and sin. Your body is now dead to sin (the power of sin) and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**Immorality** is evidence of turning your back on God as Romans 1 teaches (Ro 1:25-note, Ro 1:27-note, Ro 1:28-note). God will judge illicit sexual sin (Heb 13:4-note) whether in a believer or an unbeliever, Peter adding that judgment begins at the household of God (1Pe 4:17-note) because believers are even more accountable in view of the fact that they have the power (Ro 6:11-note, Ro 8:13-note, Gal 5:24-note) to flee youthful lusts (2Ti 2:22-note) and to abstain from fleshly lusts (1Pe 2:11-note). **When believers sin, it is against a "flood of light"!** As Paul explained to believers who thought that now that they were 'covered' by **grace** and could sin with impunity since grace abounded where sin increased (Ro 5:20-note), he countered their deceptive, defective rationalization with the strongest of Greek negative exclamations...



**May it never be!** How shall we who died (dead men are positionally uninfluenced and unaffected pleasures of this life-Col 1:27-note, Col 2:10-note, Col 3:4-note) to (the) **Sin** (for new creatures in Christ [2Co 5:17] the power of sin inherited from Adam is broken along with the previous powerlessness to say "no" to it's reign and demands to be gratified) still live in it?" (Ro 6:2-note)

When we believed in Christ, we need to remember that Jesus became not only our Saviour but also our Master, the Owner of our bodies and He has the right to command us (through Paul)...

Therefore (based on the Supremacy of Christ in Colossians 1-2, and in the immediate context, the truth that He is our life = Col 3:4- note) **consider** (aorist imperative = Do this now! Make a decisive choice! Don't delay!) the members of your earthly body as **dead** to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. (Colossians 3:5-note)

Note the order of sins in this "vice list" in Colossians 3:5 (note) - immorality is #1... **flesh** (even in believers) has not changed much since Paul wrote to the believers in Colossae. Immorality heads the list of the deeds of the flesh (Gal 5:19) and is not proper behavior for the saints (Ep 5:3-note). The Jerusalem Council recognized the ever present, seductive danger of immorality and thus ordered Gentile believers to avoid immorality and idolatry (Acts 15:20, 29; 21:25 - see **Idolatry and Immorality** - the relationship and the antidote).

**Vine** comments on Colossians 3:5 noting that Paul

puts at the beginning of the list the sins which set at defiance the primal laws of God which govern the continuation of the human race and are essential to its well-being, physical and moral... The first in this list is a specific sin; from this there is a transition to the moral general. ([Vine, W. Collected Writings of W. E. Vine. Nashville: Thomas Nelson](#))

**William Barclay** has an interesting historical note to put Paul's teaching in the proper cultural context writing that

**Chastity** was the one completely new virtue which Christianity brought into the world. In the ancient world sexual relationships before marriage and outside marriage were the normal and accepted practice. The sexual appetite was regarded as a thing to be gratified, not to be controlled. That is an attitude which is not unfamiliar today, although often it is supported by specious arguments. The Christian ethic insists on **chastity**, regarding the physical relationship between the sexes as something so precious that indiscriminate use of it in the end spoils it." ([Barclay, W: The Daily Study Bible Series. Rev. ed. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press](#))

**Paul** has another "vice" list (notice again what heads up the list) in **Galatians** writing that

the deeds of the **flesh** are evident, which are: **immorality** (porneia), **impurity**, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice (present tense = continually, as their lifestyle; yes, believers can still commit these sins but they grieve when they do and the sins are not their continual practice. Paul is not speaking of perfection but of the general "direction" of our lives. If our life has never demonstrated a "change of direction" then we would be wise to ponder 2Cor 13:5 regarding which Criswell says "This verse is not intended to rob believers of the assurance and security of their salvation. It is, however, intended as a warning to those who would follow false teaching and adopt a life-style that is inconsistent with the message of reconciliation [cf. 2Cor 12:20, 21]. To persist in either activity is a cause for serious introspection and a testing to see whether or not one is truly "in the faith.") such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. (Gal 5:19, 20, 21-notes).

**John** records a similar warning writing "for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and **immoral persons** (related noun **pornos**) and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. (Re 21:8-[note](#))

**Spurgeon** - Brethren and sisters, it is no slight thing to be holy. A man must not say, "I have faith," and then fall into the sins of an unbeliever; for, after all, our outer life is the test of our inner life; and if the outer life be not purified, rest assured the heart is not changed. That faith which does not bring forth the fruit of holiness is the faith of devils. The devils believe and tremble. Let us never be content with a faith which can live in hell, but rise to that which will save us — the faith of God's elect, which purifies the soul, casting down the power of evil, and setting up the throne of Jesus Christ, the throne of holiness within the spirit. (Sermon - [1Corinthians 6:19-20 Bought with a Price](#))

**John MacArthur**...

You have no business indulging (thoughts of sexual sins). Put them away at once. You yourself must do this; it cannot be done for you. There is no point waiting for some heavenly power to erase this sin automatically from your life. You are to stop it, and stop it immediately (**Ed**: Think "**Flee**"!). **Martyn Lloyd-Jones** said,

I do not know of a single scripture—and I speak advisedly—which tells me to take my sin, the particular thing that gets me down, to God in prayer and ask him to deliver me from it and then trust in faith that he will.

Now that teaching is also often put like this: you must say to a man who is constantly defeated by a particular sin, "I think your only hope is to take it to Christ and Christ will take it from you." But what does Scripture say in Ephesians 4:28 to the man who finds himself constantly guilty of stealing, to a man who sees something he likes and takes it? What am I to tell such a man? Am I to say, "Take that sin to Christ and ask him to deliver you?" No, what the apostle Paul tells him is this: "Let him that stole, steal no more." Just that. Stop doing it. And if it is fornication or adultery or lustful thoughts, again: Stop doing it, says Paul. He does not say, "Go and pray to Christ to deliver you." No. You stop doing that, he says, as becomes children of God.

Here is perhaps the most straightforward, obvious means of mortifying our sin: stop doing it. Too many people think they must wait for an extraordinary experience, a miracle from heaven, a sign from the Lord, or whatever. They think some special divine intervention is necessary to free them from a sinful practice or pattern of thinking. No, that is precisely the error Romans 6 refutes. You are free from sin; now stop doing it. You are dead to sin; now put to death the sin that remains. How? "Abstain." Reckon yourself dead to sin, and don't do it anymore. "Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (Jas 4:7-note). It is as simple as that. (MacArthur, J., F., Jr. *The Vanishing Conscience* or [see his excellent paper \*\*Mortification of Sin\*\*](#))

**EVERY OTHER SIN THAT A MAN COMMITS IS OUTSIDE THE BODY: pan hamartema o ean poiese (3SAAS) anthropos ektos tou somatos estin, (3SPAI):**

- [1 Corinthians 6 Resources](#) - Multiple Sermons and Commentaries
- [1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Christian Liberty and Sexual Freedom](#) - John MacArthur
- [1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Christian Liberty and Sexual Freedom - Study Guide](#) - John MacArthur

## SIN...

Will take you farther than you ever thought you'd stray

Will leave you so lost, you think you'll never find your way

Will keep you longer than you ever thought you'd stay

Will cost you more than you ever thought you'd pay!

Playing with any sin in your life, especially sexual sin, even if it seems relatively innocent, is like staying on the sand bar when the tide is coming in. You know the tide always comes in, and you think you'll know before its too late. But it creeps up on you, and before you know it, you're trapped.

**Every other sin... outside the body** - This introduces a clause that is somewhat enigmatic and difficult to interpret so that needless to say there are a number of thoughts on what Paul intends to convey.

**John MacArthur** feels that "although sexual sin is not necessarily the worst sin, it is the most unique in its character. It rises from within the body bent on personal gratification. It drives like no other impulse and when fulfilled affects the body like no other sin. It has a way of internally destroying a person that no other sin has. Because sexual intimacy is the deepest uniting of two persons, its misuse corrupts on the deepest human level. That is not a psychological analysis but a divinely revealed fact. Sexual immorality is far more destructive than alcohol, far more destructive than drugs, far more destructive than crime... I explain it in this way, that Paul does not altogether deny that there are other vices, in like manner, by which our **body** is dishonored and disgraced, but that his meaning is simply this — that defilement does not attach itself to our **body** from other vices in the same way as it does from fornication. My hand, it is true, is defiled by theft or murder, my tongue by evil speaking, or perjury, and the whole **body** by drunkenness; but fornication leaves a stain impressed upon the **body**, such as is not impressed upon it from other sins. According to this comparison, or, in other words, in the sense of less and more, other sins are said to be **without the body** — not, however, as though they do not at all affect the body, viewing each one by itself. ([MacArthur, J.: 1Corinthians. Chicago: Moody Press or Logos](#))

**Calvin** - Having set before us honorable conduct, he now shows how much we ought to abhor fornication, setting before us the enormity of its wickedness and baseness. Now he shows its greatness by comparison — that this sin alone, of all sins, puts a brand of disgrace upon the body. ([Commentary on Corinthians Online](#))

**Robertson** - Commentators differ greatly as to the explanation of **outside the body**, which is the specially difficult expression. But the general meaning of 1Co 6:13-18 is plain. The body has an eternal destiny, **the body is for the Lord**. Fornication takes the body away from the Lord and robs it of its glorious future, of which the presence of the Spirit is the present guarantee (cf. Ro. 8:9, 10, 11). In 1Co 6:18 we have the sharply cut practical issue, 'Flee fornication.' Clearly the words that follow are meant to strengthen the *severitas cum fastidio* of the abrupt imperative: they are not an anti-climax... To sin against one's own body is to defraud it of its part in Christ, to cut it off from its eternal destiny. This is what fornication does in a unique degree. While fornication is *eis to idou somatos*, other sins are *ektos tou somatos*. The one phrase is the opposite of the other. What St Paul asserts of fornication he denies of every other sin. (Robertson, A., & Plummer, A.. A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the First epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. 1911 - Read more [Online](#)).

**Evangelical Commentary** - All other sins are outside of the body in that they do not involve the entire personality (1Co 6:18).

**MacDonald** - Most sins have no direct effect on one's body, but sexual immorality is unique in the sense that it does directly affect one's body: a person reaps the consequences of this sin in his own body. The difficulty is that the verse says that every sin that a man commits is outside the body. But we believe that the apostle is speaking here in a comparative sense. While it is true that gluttony and drunkenness, for example, affect a person's body, most sins do not. And not even gluttony or drunkenness affect the body as directly, as extensively, or as destructively as immorality. Sex outside marriage inevitably and irresistibly works havoc on the offender. ([MacDonald, W & Farstad, A. Believer's Bible Commentary: Thomas Nelson](#))

**The Pulpit Commentary** - By alienating it from the service of him to whom it belongs; by incorporating it with the degradation of another; by staining the flesh and the body (Pr 5:8, 9, 10, 11; 6:24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32; 7:24, 25, 26, 27); by subtly poisoning the inmost sanctities of his own being. St. Paul is here thinking mainly, however, if not exclusively, of the moral injury and defilement. ([Pulpit Commentary](#))

**UBS Handbook** - Any other sin which a man commits remains in a certain sense external to him; but the man who gives himself to immorality fundamentally destroys himself. ([The United Bible Societies' New Testament Handbook Series](#))

**Criswell** - "Sexual immorality" has a peculiar effect upon the body. The sole purpose of this sin is the gratification of lust; and, therefore, it is probably the most selfish of all sins (cf. Matt. 5:32-note). The internal spiritual sensitivities are wrecked by this sin. ([Criswell, W A. Believer's Study Bible: New King James Version. 1991. Thomas Nelson](#))

**Lenski** - Sexual sins bear a vicious character all their own. They are peculiarly unsavory and hence entail shame and disgrace in a peculiar manner. They rot the body, fill the mind with rottenness, and rapidly eliminate the sinner from this life... No sinful act desecrates the body like fornication and sexual abuse. In this sense fornication has a deadly eminence. A sanctuary is desecrated by befouling it within; so this sin desecrates the sanctuary of the body. All other sins besmirch the sanctuary on the outside only. (Lenski, R. C. H. The Interpretation of St. Paul's First and Second epistle to the Corinthians. Minneapolis, MN.: Augsburg Publishing House)

**R L Pratt** - The meaning of these words is difficult to determine. Many sins, such as substance abuse, gluttony, and suicide, have detrimental effects on the body. Paul's words do not refer to disease and/or other damage caused by sin. Instead, his words are linked to the preceding discussion of 1Co 6:12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17. There Paul established that Christians' bodies are joined with Christ so that they become "members of Christ" (1Co 6:15) himself. Sexual union with a prostitute violates one's body by bringing it into a wrongful "one flesh" union, and by flaunting the mystical union with Christ (1Co 6:15). It is in this sense that sexual immorality is a unique sin against the body. It violates the most significant fact about believers' physical existence: their bodies belong to Christ... Believers' bodies are sanctified and holy, being in union with Christ. When a person in Christ engages in sexual immorality, that immorality runs contrary to the new nature and new identity of his body. (Pratt, R. L., Jr. Vol. 7: I & II Corinthians. Holman New Testament Commentary; Holman Reference. Page 101. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers. 2000).

**Jamieson** - Every other sin; even gluttony, drunkenness, and self-murder are "without," that is, comparatively external to the body (Mk 7:18; compare Pr 6:30, 31, 32). He certainly injures, but he does not alienate the body itself; the sin is not terminated in the body; he rather sins against the perishing accidents of the body (as the "belly," and the body's present temporary organization), and against the soul than against the body in its permanent essence, designed "for the Lord." "But" the fornicator alienates that body which is the Lord's, and makes it one with a harlot's body, and so "sinneth against his own body," that is, against the verity and nature of his body; not a mere effect on the body from without, but a contradiction of the truth of the body, wrought within itself [Alford].

**Garland** has a in depth analysis of the common interpretations...

(1) Sexual sin is deemed particularly destructive because it causes the greatest damage to a person. As Calvin (1960: 131–32) characterizes it, “Other sins do not leave the same filthy stain on our bodies as fornication does”

(2) A second view perceives that Paul refers to a qualitative difference between sins: “Sexual sin is different in kind, not just in degree from other sins” (Fisk 1996: 541). Bruce (1971: 65), for example, comments that other sins “consist in things which are morally neutral.” Their effects can be undone by abstinence. By contrast, “the relation once established by porneia cannot be undone”... Fee (1987: 262–63) thinks that it is the unique nature of sexual sin that the man removes his body from union with Christ by putting it under the mastery of a prostitute and ruins its redemptive status “as for the Lord” (see also Robertson and Plummer 1914: 150–51; Jewett 1971: 261).

Others stress how this sin in particular distorts personal relationships. Käsemann (1964: 133) argues that the body is the instrument of intimate bodily communication between persons: “As body, man exists in relationship to others, in subjection because of the world, in the jurisdiction of the Creator, in the hope of resurrection, in the possibility of concrete obedience and self-surrender.” Byrne (1983: 613) bases his view on this insight from Käsemann and contends “The immoral person perverts precisely that faculty within himself that is meant to be the instrument of the most intimate bodily communication between persons. He sins against his unique power of communication and in this sense sins in a particular way “against his own body.” No other sin engages one’s power of bodily personal communication in precisely so intimate a way. All other sins are in this respect by comparison “outside” the body—with “body” having in this verse the strong sexual overtones that appear to cling to it throughout the passage as a whole.”

When one has sex with a prostitute, what God intended to be a means of sharing one’s life with another is dehumanized into a momentary coupling for the sole purpose of sexual release. It leaves a legacy of alienation and guilt rather than loving intimacy and mutual commitment.

(3) Fisk offers a third view, which understands sexual sin to be uniquely defiling and a sin against the body... The context and rhetorical tone suggest that Paul wants to draw out the distinctive character of sexual sin compared to every other sin a person could possibly commit. That these other sins are “outside the body” implies that they are not sins “against the body”, not that the body is not involved in committing them. Sexual sin, by contrast, is labeled a direct assault on the body (Fisk 1996: 546-47). Fisk (1996: 546) shows that this view reflects the Jewish wisdom tradition that “some sins, but apparently not all, were viewed as destructive acts against one’s self, one’s psyche, life, soul).” Commentators, however, have long asked how drunkenness, gluttony, suicide, and self-mutilation do not qualify also as sins against the body. But Paul is not referring to what might physically injure the body (Jewett 1971: 261). To take one example, drunkenness does not have the capacity to make a person one flesh with alcohol. This one-flesh union is true only of the sex act. Because intercourse with a prostitute is “uniquely body joining, it is uniquely body-defiling” (Fisk 1996: 558). In the context, sex with a prostitute severs the union with Christ and sabotages its resurrection destiny. (Garland, D. E.. 1Corinthians. Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic)

**Matthew Poole** - the body hath not such a blemish and note or mark of infamy laid upon it by any other sin as by this: in drunkenness the liquor, in gluttony the meat, in other sins something without a man’s self is that which is abused, but the body itself is the thing which is abused in this filthy sin. (Matthew Poole’s Commentary on the New Testament)

**Wycliffe Bible Commentary** - The final phrases, without the body and against the body, are difficult. Perhaps the meaning is that other sins, such as drunkenness, have effects on the body, but fornication is a sin wrought within the body and involves a monstrous denial of union with Christ by union with the harlot.

**Marvin Vincent** - The body is not the instrument, but the subject. But in fornication the body is the instrument of the sin, and “inwardly as well as outwardly is made over to another.”

**Witherington** - Paul’s point is that sexual sin, unlike other sins, involves one’s very body in a union with others and is a sin against self as well as others. It involves the whole self and thus is dangerous and deadly to one’s spiritual well-being, for it puts one into the hands and mastery of someone other than the Lord. (Conflict and Community in Corinth : A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary on 1 and 2 Corinthians. Page 169. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans)

**Jon Courson** has an interesting interpretation (but be a Berean, Acts 17:11-note, 1Th 5:21, 22-note) "Because we are made in the

image of a triune God, we are comprised of three parts as well: body, soul, and spirit. The body relates to the physical world. The soul is one's essence, one's personality, and relates to people. The spirit relates to God and will live eternally. Thus, each time one engages in immoral activity, a part of his soul is permanently and irreplaceably forfeited. The tragedy, then, is that the one who continues to live in promiscuity becomes less and less of a person as a piece of his soul is stripped away with each encounter. (Jon Courson's Application Commentary. Page 1038. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson)

Sexual sin not only is against God and other persons, it is also against ourselves. Part of our moral responsibility to ourselves is to be sexually pure. When Christians are immoral, the testimony of the gospel is polluted, as we all know too well from the national exposure of the sexual infidelity of many well known pastors.

The **NET Bible note** is interesting "It is debated whether this ("Every sin a person commits is outside of the body") is a Corinthian slogan. If it is not, then Paul is essentially arguing that there are two types of sin, nonsexual sins which take place outside the body and sexual sins which are against a person's very own body. If it is a Corinthian slogan, then it is a slogan used by the Corinthians to justify their immoral behavior. With it they are claiming that anything done in the body or through the body had no moral relevance. A decision here is very difficult, but the latter is to be preferred for two main reasons. (1) This is the most natural understanding of the statement as it is written. To construe it as a statement by Paul requires a substantial clarification in the sense (e.g., "All other sins..." [NIV]). (2) Theologically the former is more difficult: Why would Paul single out sexual sins as more intrinsically related to the body than other sins, such as gluttony or drunkenness? For these reasons, it is more likely that the phrase in quotation marks is indeed a Corinthian slogan which Paul turns against them in the course of his argument, although the decision must be regarded as tentative.

**Augustine**, The Confessions of Saint Augustine - "Sin comes when we take a perfectly natural desire or longing or ambition and try desperately to fulfill it without God. Not only is it sin, it is a perverse distortion of the image of the Creator in us. All these good things, and all our security, are rightly found only and completely in him.

**Hodge** - This does not teach that fornication is greater than any other sin; but it does teach that it is altogether peculiar in its effects upon the body; not so much in its physical as in its moral and spiritual effects. The idea runs through the Bible that there is something mysterious in the commerce of the sexes, and in the effects which flow from it. Every other sin, however degrading and ruinous to the health, even drunkenness, is external to the body, that is, external to its life. But fornication, involving as it does a community of life, is a sin against the body itself, because incompatible, as the Apostle had just taught, with the design of its creation, and with its immortal destiny. ([1 Corinthians Commentary](#))

**Harry Ironside...**

Other sins do not affect the body, but this one sin is ruinous to body and soul alike, and so, Paul says, **Flee fornication, run from anything that would tend to stir the body to unholy lust. (Ed: You may want to read that again.**

In his "Confessions" **St. Augustine** tells how in his unconverted days he had allowed himself to become the willing victim of vile and fleshly lusts. He lived his careless life as the pagans of that day, and associated with the corrupt and wicked members of society. When he got converted, the great question upon his mind was this, "Will I ever be able to live according to the Christian standard of holiness, will I ever be able to keep myself from the vile, sensuous life in which I have lived so long?" When he first yielded himself to Christ, he took as his life-text Ro 13:13, 14 (note), where the apostle exhorts the believer to

**"Put on** (aorist imperative = Command to make a decisive choice to do this!) the Lord Jesus Christ and**make** (present imperative + negative = Stop doing this!) no provision (pronoia - word study) for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts."

For long after his conversion he did not dare even to go near that part of the city where his godless companions of former days lived. But one day a matter of business called him there, and as he was walking along the street he suddenly saw one of the beautiful yet wicked companions of his folly. The moment her eyes lit upon him her face was illuminated with delight, and she came running with outstretched arms and said, "Austin! where have you been for so long? We have missed you so," and he turned and gathered up his long philosopher's gown and started to run. It was not a very dignified proceeding for a doctor, a professor of rhetoric, to run up the street with a godless girl running after him. She called to him, "Austin, Austin, why do you run? It is only I!" He looked back and exclaimed,

**"I run because it is not I."**

And he was off again. "The life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me" (Gal. 2:20-note). That is our standard, and so in all our behavior in the use of the

body we are thus to glorify Him. (H A Ironside Expository Commentary)

**Susannah Wesley** defined "sin" to her young son, **John Wesley** - "If you would judge of the lawfulness or the unlawfulness of pleasure, then take this simple rule: Whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, and takes off the relish of spiritual things—that to you is sin.

**Sin** (265) (**hamartema** = the suffix "-ma" speaks of the result, in this case the result of **hamartia** [word study] or sin) describes the thought, word or deed by someone which violates the will of God. Hamartema is sin as the act or result of the principle of sin. A wrong doing. BDAG states that hamartema has meanings ranging from involuntary mistake to serious moral default.

**Trench** writes that **hamartema** "differs from **hamartia** in that it "is never sin regarded as sinfulness, or as the act of sinning, but only sin contemplated in its separate outcomings and deeds of disobedience to a divine law."

**Friberg** states that **hamartema** is "strictly error, fault; as an offense against law, incurring guilt because of its wrong intent - sin, sinful act, wrongdoing." ([Friberg, T., Friberg, B., & Miller, N. F. Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament. Baker Academic](#))

**NIDNTT** says that in classic Greek..

**hamartano** (Homer onwards) originally meant to miss, miss the mark, lose, not share in something, be mistaken. The Gk. view of a mistake is intellectually orientated. hamartano is the result of some agnoia, ignorance. The cognate noun is hamartia (Aeschylus onwards), mistake, failure to reach a goal (chiefly a spiritual one). The result of such action is hamartema, failure, mistake, offense, committed against friends, against one's own body, etc. From these was derived (in the 5th cent. B.C.) the adj. and noun hamartolos, that thing or person that fails; in Aristophanes it occurs as a barbarism used with a deprecatory and ironic ring. hamartetikos (the better form) is also uncommon and late. The root hamart-, with its meaning of fail, produced many popular compounds, e.g. hamartinoos, madman. In the Gk.-speaking world the noun hamartema prevailed over the vb. hamartano.

In the Gk.-speaking world the noun **hamartema** prevailed over the verb **hamartano**. Aristotle placed it between adikema, injustice, and atychema, misfortune, as an offense against the prevailing order, but one without an evil intention, i.e. without kakia, evil, wickedness (Eth. Nic. 5, 8, 1135b 18). Thus it was also used in legal language of deliberate offenses. hamartia becomes a collective term with a relatively indefinite sense: offending against right feeling. It can mean anything from stupidity to law-breaking, anything that offends against the orthon, the right, that does not conform to the dominant ethic, to the respect due to social order and to the polis. ([Brown, Colin, Editor. New International Dictionary of NT Theology. 1986. Zondervan](#))

**Hamartema** - 4x in 4v - Mark 3:28, 29; Ro 3:25-note; 1Cor 6:18

Mark 3:28 "Truly I say to you, all **sins** shall be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter;

Mark 3:29 but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal **sin** "--

**NET Bible Note:** This passage has troubled many people, who have wondered whether or not they have committed this eternal sin. Three things must be kept in mind:

(1) the nature of the sin is to ascribe what is the obvious work of the Holy Spirit (e.g., releasing people from Satan's power) to Satan himself;

(2) it is **not simply a momentary doubt or sinful attitude**, but is indeed a **settled condition** which opposes the Spirit's work, as typified by the religious leaders who opposed Jesus; and

(3) a person who is concerned about it has probably never committed this sin, for those who commit it here (i.e., the religious leaders) are not in the least concerned about Jesus' warning. On this last point see W. W. Wessel, "Mark," EBC 8:645–46. ([Mark 3 NET Bible Note](#)) (**Bolding Added**)

Romans 3:25-note Whom (Christ) God displayed publicly as a propitiation (**hilasterion**) in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance (**anochē**) of God He passed over the **sins** previously committed;

1 Corinthians 6:18 **Flee** immorality. Every other **sin** that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.

**Commits** (4160) (**poieo**) conveys the basic meaning of to produce something material (to make). The idea is to to undertake or do something that brings about an event, state, or condition. In this context the idea clearly is to undertake to fulfill my will, not God's perfect will.

**Outside** ([1622](#)) (**ektos**) means out of instead of within. It is the outside surface of something as in Mt 23:36. The sense of ektos in this verse is independent of. **BDAG** writes that ektos in this verse refers to the fact that "sin in general, apart from fornication remains outside the body, since sexual immorality pollutes the body itself."

**Body** ([4983](#)) (**soma**) refers to the organized physical substance of an animal or plant either living or dead. The frame of an animal; the material substance of an animal.

**Garland** comments that **body** "refers not to the human self, personhood, or individuality but to "the corporeality of human life," its physical aspect. The body is "the locus where we experience life, death, sickness and sexuality—in short our creatureliness and our position in the realm of nature". The body is capable of becoming an instrument of wickedness or an instrument of righteousness; a slave of impurity or a slave of righteousness (Ro 6:19); something that brings glory to God (Ro 6:20; Php 1:20) or something that brings shame. Paul does not view human beings as simply having a body; they are embodied, and by using the word soma, he "directs attention to their bodies, not to the wholeness of their being. The soma is simply that part of man in and through which he performs concrete actions. It becomes the base of operations for sin in the unbeliever, for the Holy Spirit in the believer" (Gundry 1976: 50). (Ibid)

**LOOK OUT!**  
**DON'T BE DECEIVED BY**  
**THE "SILT" OF SIN!**

**ILLUSTRATION OF THE SUBTLE CORRUPTING EFFECT OF SIN** -- What happened to the great city of Ephesus? Often mentioned in the New Testament, it was one of the cultural and commercial centers of its day. Located at the mouth of the Cayster River, it was noted for its bustling harbors, its broad avenues, its gymnasiums, its baths, its huge amphitheater, and especially its magnificent Temple of Diana. What happened to bring about its gradual decline until its harbor was no longer crowded with ships and the city was no longer a flourishing metropolis? Was it smitten by plagues, destroyed by enemies, or demolished by earthquakes? No, silt was the reason for its downfall—silent and non-violent silt. Over the years, fine sedimentary particles slowly filled up the harbor, separating the city from the economic life of the sea traders. Little evil practices, little acts of disobedience may seem harmless. (Song 2:15) But let the silt of sin gradually accumulate, and we will find ourselves far from God. Life will become a spiritual ruin. In the book of Hebrews we are warned of the danger of "the deceitfulness of sin" (Heb 3:13 - **See Related Discussion: The Deceitfulness of Sin**). James said that the attractive pleasures of sin are really a mask covering death (Jas 1:15-note). God forbid that we let the silt of sin accumulate in our lives!

**Our Sinful Nature Always Has the Potential to Erupt** - Scores of people lost their lives. The world's mightiest army was forced to abandon a strategic base, property damage approached a billion dollars. All because the sleeping giant, Mount Pinatube in the Philippines, roared back to life after 600 years of quiet slumber. When asked to account for the incredible destruction, caused by this volcano, a research scientist from the Philippine department of volcanology observed, "When a volcano is silent for many years, our people forget that it's a volcano and begin to treat it like a mountain. Like Mount Pinatube, our sinful nature always has the potential to erupt, bringing great harm both to ourselves and to others. The biggest mistake we can make is to ignore the volcano and move back onto what seems like a dormant "mountain."

**Sin is like the Tiny Insect described in this illustration** - It was reported recently that an enormous pine tree in the mountains of Colorado had fallen victim to a pine beetle and died. According to locals, up to that point the tree was thought to be indestructible. It had survived fourteen lightning strikes and many years of Colorado winters, including avalanches and fires. But it was eventually brought down from within by a tiny insect that did its work silently. That's the way it is with sin in a person's life, be they a Christian or a non-Christian. Watch over your heart with all diligence (See Pr 4:23-note).

**BUT THE IMMORAL MAN SINS AGAINST HIS OWN BODY: (3SPA1) o de porneuon (PAPMSN) eis to idion soma hamartanei (3SPA1):**

- Ro 1:24; 1Th 4:5
- [1 Corinthians 6 Resources](#) - Multiple Sermons and Commentaries
- [1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Christian Liberty and Sexual Freedom](#) - John MacArthur
- [1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Christian Liberty and Sexual Freedom - Study Guide](#) - John MacArthur

**THE DANGER OF**  
**IMMORALITY**

**But** - Pause and ponder this **term of contrast**.

More literally this verse reads "he who is committing whoredom (present tense), against his own body doth sin (present tense)"

**Immoral** (4203) (**porneuo** from  **pornos** = literally the purchasable one, the one you buy, the harlot, the prostitute) means to prostitute one's body to the lust of another, to give oneself to unlawful sexual intercourse. To commit fornication. Used as a Hebraic sense as a figure of speech to describe one who worships idols rather than the living God. Note in the uses of **porneuo** in the Septuagint (see below), Israel was pictured as a woman (God's wife - Jer 31:32, Isa 54:5) who was unfaithful and like a wife who became a prostitute, figuratively committed acts of immorality against God. However as worship of idols is often associated with literal immorality in Scripture, the OT uses of **porneuo** surely picture both literal and figurative fornication.

#### Related Resources:

- Idolatry and Immorality - the relationship and the antidote.
- McClintock and Strong's Bible Encyclopedia [Immorality](#)
- Charles Buck Dictionary [Immorality](#)
- Holman Bible Dictionary [Immorality](#)
- [What is sexual immorality?](#)

**Porneuo** is in the present tense - the one who continually prostitutes himself (or herself).

**Porneuo** - 8x in 7v - NAS renders **porneuo** as act immorally(1), commit... immorality(2), committed... immorality(3), did(1), immoral(1).

1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.

1 Corinthians 10:8 Nor let us **act immorally**, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day. (See below as NAS somewhat obscures the two uses of **porneuo**)

1Co 10:8YLT neither may we **commit whoredom**, as certain of them **did commit whoredom**, and there fell in one day twenty-three thousand;

Revelation 2:14-note 'But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to **commit acts of immorality**.

Revelation 2:20-note 'But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray so that they **commit acts of immorality** and eat things sacrificed to idols.

Revelation 17:2-note (Babylon the great! Re 17:5) with whom the kings of the earth **committed acts of immorality**, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality."

Revelation 18:3-note "For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality (Babylon the great - Re 18:2), and the kings of the earth have **committed acts of immorality** with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality."

Revelation 18:9-note "And the kings of the earth, who **committed acts of immorality** and lived sensuously with her, will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning

**Porneuo** - 17v in the non-apocryphal **Septuagint (LXX)** - Dt 23:17; 1Chr 5:25; Ps 73:27; 106:39; Je 3:6, 7, 8; Ezek 6:9; 16:15, 34; 23:19; Hos 3:3; 4:10, 14, 18; 9:1; Amos 7:17

1Chronicles 5:25 But they acted treacherously against the God of their fathers and **played the harlot** (KJV = went a whoring. Hebrew = zannah = to fornicate or prostitute and most often used for women; Lxx = **porneuo**) after the gods of the peoples of the land, whom God had destroyed before them.

Psalms 73:27 For, behold, those who are far from You will perish; You have destroyed all those who **are unfaithful** to You (KJV = "go a whoring". Hebrew = zannah = commit adultery; Lxx = **porneuo**).

NET Psalm 106:39 They were defiled by their deeds, and **unfaithful in their actions**. (or "they committed adultery in their actions." = they were unfaithful to the LORD. Lxx = **porneuo**)

Jeremiah 3:6-8 Then the LORD said to me in the days of Josiah the king, "Have you seen what faithless Israel



did? She went up on every high hill and under every green tree, and she **was a harlot** (Lxx = porneuo) there. 7 "I thought, 'After she has done all these things (Lxx adds "committed acts of fornication" = porneuo) she will return to Me'; but she did not return, and her treacherous sister Judah saw it. 8 "And I saw that for all the adulteries of faithless Israel, I had sent her away and given her a writ of divorce, yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear; but she went and **was a harlot** (Lxx = porneuo) also.

Ezekiel 6:9 Then those of you who escape will remember Me among the nations to which they will be carried captive, how I have been hurt by their adulterous hearts which turned away from Me, and by their eyes which **played the harlot** (Lxx = porneuo) after their idols; and they will loathe themselves in their own sight for the evils which they have committed, for all their abominations.

**Comment:** Beloved, one who has been bought with the costly price of the infinitely priceless blood of Christ, does this passage not grieve your heart. The gracious and loving God's was hurt but their adultery. Let this be a warning and a motivation to us to continually flee immorality in every form.

Hosea 9:1 Do not rejoice, O Israel, with exultation like the nations! For you have **played the harlot** (Lxx = porneuo), forsaking your God. You have loved harlots' earnings on every threshing floor.

**Sins** (264) (**hamartano**) means he misses the mark (and thus not share in the prize). Hamartano means to err (err is from Latin errare = to wander or to stray!) which means to wander from the right way, to deviate from the true course or purpose and so to violate an accepted standard of conduct. To err is to miss the right way. To err means to deviate from the path or line of duty. To stray by design or mistake. To err is to stray from God and/or His commandments. Hamartano means to swerve from the truth, to turn aside from the straight course charted by the Word of Truth. To swerve means to wander from any line prescribed, or from a rule of duty; to depart from what is established by law, duty or custom. In short hamartano means to miss the mark of God's perfect standard.

Here are three "Scriptural definitions" of sin...

(1) Sin = lawlessness = rebellion of creature's will against his Creator's will 1Jn 3:4

(2) Sin = not only do what wrong but failure to do what you know is right Jas 4:17

(3) Sin = Whatever is not of faith Ro 14:23-note = This means that it is wrong for a man to do anything about which he has a reasonable doubt. If he does not have a clear conscience about it, and yet goes ahead and does it, he is sinning.

**Wuest** notes that in classical Greek **hamartano** did not have the depth of meaning it has in the Bible noting that...

The pagan Greeks used it of a warrior who hurls his spear and **fails to strike his foe**. It is used of one who **misses** his way. **Hamartia** is used of a poet who selects a subject which it is impossible to treat poetically, or who seeks to attain results which lie beyond the limits of his art. The **hamartia** is a fearful mistake. It sometimes is employed in an ethical sense where the ideas of right and wrong are discussed, but it does not have the full significance of the biblical content of the word. In the moral sphere, it had the idea of **missing the right, of going wrong**. In the classics, its predominating significance was that of the **failure to attain** in any field of endeavor. Brought over into the NT, **this idea of failing to attain an end, gives it the idea of missing the divinely appointed goal, a deviation from what is pleasing to God, doing what is opposed to God's will, perversion of what is upright, a misdeed**.

**Thus the word hamartia means a missing of the goal conformable to and fixed by God**

It is interesting to note that in Romans the word **dikaiosisune** (word study) which means "**conformity to the standard**" appears as the opposite of **hamartia**, a missing of the standard set by God (Ro 6:16, 17, 18-note). The noun **hamartia** is everywhere translated in the NT, by the word "sin" except in 2Co 11:7, where it is rendered "offense," since the context speaks of Paul's relations to the Corinthians. ([Wuest Word Studies - Eerdmans Publishing Company Volume 1, Volume 2, Volume 3](#) - used [by permission](#))(Bolding added)

**Kay Arthur** - Because this body is the Lord's, then when you sin, when you commit immorality, God has got to judge that. ([Reference](#))

**Vine** - There is to be no other course than immediate and decisive dissociation from everything to do with it. Every other sin such as murder, lying, robbery, drunkenness is "without the body," but fornication stands alone, in that it not only makes the body itself, and so the whole being, the very motive for, as well as the instrument of, sin but it involves the complete destruction of the life and mars the personality of the individual, rendering the living organism, the body, which should be devoted to the service of God, impossible for the fulfillment of the Lord's design for it. Intended to be only temporary it really forms a permanent bond, to the Lord's dishonor,

sundering union with Him and bringing dishonor, too, upon both the male and the female.

**Guzik** - Paul isn't saying sexual immorality is worse than any other sin; but he does teach that sexual sin has a unique effect on the body; not only in a physical way, but also in a moral and spiritual ways. **Augustine** was a Christian who had a lot of trouble with keeping sexually pure. For a long time, it kept him from really following God. He used to pray: "God, make me pure - but not just yet." But there came a point where he really turned everything over to God. He stopped hanging around with his companions in sexual immorality, and stopped going to the neighborhood where he used to meet them. But once, he had to go there on business, and on the street he met an old flame. She was glad to see him, and started running to him with arms outstretched, saying "Augustine! Where have you been for so long? We have missed you so!" Augustine did the only thing he could do: he started running the other way. She called out to him: "Augustine, why are you running? Its only me!" He looked back, while still running, and said "I'm running because I'm not me!" He was a different man because of Jesus, living a different way. If we have had our lives changed by Jesus, it will show in the desire to flee sexual immorality.

**Hamilton Smith** - The apostle then passes on to speak of that which is not lawful for the body — actual sin. Here we are reminded that the body is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. He reminds us, too, that these bodies are destined for high honour, for even as God hath raised up the Lord, so will He also raise up these bodies by His own power. Moreover, our bodies are members of Christ, and he that is joined to the Lord is one Spirit. The apostle learnt something of this great truth at his conversion, for the Lord said to him, "Why persecutest thou Me?". To touch the bodies of the saints was to touch Christ. How solemn is all sin, but how specially solemn is sin against the body which is indwelt by the Holy Spirit and belongs to God, and which it is our privilege and responsibility to use for the glory of God. To press upon us the deep importance of holiness, the apostle re-minds us in the course of the chapter that we are washed, sanctified and justified, and, further, that our bodies are for the Lord, joined to the Lord, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, belong to God, and are to be used for the glory of God; and, too, the Lord is for the body, and God will raise it up by His power. ([The First Epistle to the Corinthians](#))

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**Do, done, did, doing; Make, made, makes, making; Perform, Practice** (4160) (**poieo**) occurs 568 times, primarily in the Gospels and in a wide variety of contexts, which makes it difficult to do a simple word study.

**BDAG** says **poieo** is "a **multivalent** term (possessing many meanings), often without pointed semantic (relating to meaning in language) significance, used in reference to a broad range of activity involving such matters as bringing something into being, bringing something to pass, or simply interacting in some way with a variety of entities." ([BDAG](#))

**Poieo** is primarily translated with the idea of to **DO** (to bring to pass, to carry out, to bring about, to accomplish), to **MAKE** (to construct or fashion something out of existing material) to **PERFORM**.

**Summary Comments** from Word Study on related verb **prasso** - **Poieo** means "to do" which focuses more on the end/achievement of the action. In contrast **prasso** focuses on the process or habitual effort to arrive at the end/achievement, and thus refers more to the course of conduct. (even the present tense of **poieo** expresses a series of repeated acts). The predominant idea conveyed by **prasso** in its NT uses is to bring about or accomplish an objective through some activity (Ro 1:32, 2:3, Ac 5:35, 26:20, 2 Co 5:10, etc). **Prasso** focuses on the activity (continued process) that brings the needed end. **Thayer** - **poieō** ("to make") focuses on producing an end-result. **Prássō** ("to practice") highlights the process to get there, i.e. the practice (habit, routine) which brings the result. **Henry Alford** (in comments on John 3:20-21) says "prasso is more the habit of action (Jn 3:20); so that we might say 'he that practices evil;' but **poiéō** the true doing of good" (Jn 3:21). **Pulpit Commentary** at Ro 7:15 -prasso is the more emphatic (marked) term than **poieo**. "The distinction between the verbs **poieo**, prasso, is not observed in the English Version...Attention to the places where they occur, will show their appropriateness in each case, denoting [respectively] single acts, [or] habitual practice".

To **do**, expressing an action as continued or not yet completed, what one does repeatedly, habitually as in 1Jn 2:29, where **poieo** is in the present tense conveying the sense of a habitual practice (1Jn 2:29, 3:4, 3:7-10). This distinction is especially significant in First John, because the present tense helps one distinguish whether an individual is a true believer or not.

**Poieo** means "to execute" in Jn 5:27; Jude 1:15 speaking of the Son of God's divine authority to "execute (i.e., make, accomplish) judgment" on the wicked.

**Poieo with the sense of "to make" (made, making)**(**Notice the variety of things which are made, from supper to tabernacles to covenants - it is an interesting list!**) - Note that some of the senses of "make" refer to building, fashioning or constructing. In other passages **poieo** conveys the underlying sense of "bringing about" a particular effect, or change, in the state of a person or object, as Jesus declares to His disciples (Mt 4:19) that He will make them "fishers of men." Here are some examples of what one **makes** (or does not make) - a path straight (Mt 3:3, Mk 1:3), hair white or black (Mt 5:36), three tabernacles (Mt 17:4), male and

female (Mt 19:4), make laborers equal (Mt 20:12), make to become fishers of men (Mk 1:17 = the sense is "to appoint"), not make known (Mk 3:12), made a supper (Mk 6:21), makes deaf to hear (Mk 7:37), made temple a den of thieves (Mk 11:17), made a great feast (Lk 5:29), make the children fast (Lk 5:34), made the outside (Lk 11:40), make a dinner (Lk 14:12), make a feast (Lk 14:13), make a great supper (Lk 14:16), make one of the hired hands (Lk 15:19), make friends for yourselves by means of the mammon of unrighteousness (Lk 16:9), made a scourge (Jn 2:15), making disciples (Jn 4:1), made water wine (Jn 4:46), made him whole (Jn 5:15), make Himself equal with God (Jn 5:18), make the men sit (Jn 6:10), make Him a king (Jn 6:15), made an entire man well (Jn 7:23), make Yourself out to be (Jn 8:53, 19:7), made clay (Jn 9:11, 14), make Himself out to be God (Jn 10:33), made Him supper (Jn 12:2), made a fire of colas (Jn 18:18), makes himself a king (Jn 19:12), account I made (composed) (Acts 1:1), made him walk (Acts 3:12), didst make the Heaven (Acts 4:24), make for us gods (Acts 7:40), images which you made to worship (Acts 7:43), make it (tabernacle) according to the pattern (Acts 7:44, cp Heb 8:5), "My hand which made all these things" (Acts 7:50), made loud lamentation (Acts 8:2), garments that Dorcas used to make (Acts 9:39), made the world (Acts 17:24), He made from one every nation of mankind (Acts 17:26), made silver shrines of Artemis (Acts 19:24), made (formed) a conspiracy (Acts 23:13), make mention (Ro 1:9, 1Th 1:2, Philemon 1:4, cp Phil 1:4), Why did you make me like this? (Ro 9:20), make a contribution (Ro 15:26), make them members of a harlot (1Cor 6:15), make the way of escape (1Cor 10:13), made Him to be sin for us (2Cor 5:21), making mention (Eph 1:16), made both one (Eph 2:14), thanksgiving be made (1Ti 2:1), made the world (Heb 1:2), made purification (Heb 1:3), make all things according to the pattern (Heb 8:5), covenant which I made (Heb 8:9), make straight paths (Heb 12:13), as of things that are made (created) (Heb 12:27), make peace (James 3:18), make your calling and election sure (2Pe 1:10), make Him a liar (1Jn 1:10, 5:10), made us a kingdom (kings) (Rev 1:6, 5:10), make them to come and bow down (Rev 3:9), make him a pillar (Rev 3:12), make war (Rev 11:7, 12:17, 13:7), makes fire come down (Rev 13:13), make an image to the beast (Rev 13:14), worship Him Who made heaven and earth (Rev 14:7), make her desolate and naked (Rev 17:16), to make war against Him who sat upon the horse (Rev 19:19), making all things new (Rev 21:5), practices lying (maketh a lie = KJV) (Rev 22:15)

**Louw-Nida** summary of **poieo** - 1. do, make (Lk 13:22); 2. perform (almost any type of activity), act., carry out (Jn 13:27; Lk 23:34.); 3. To cause to be (Jn 19:12); 4. To work, toil (Mt 20:12); 5. To make, create or fashion (Rev 13:14); 6. To behave toward someone in a particular way (to do to, to deal with) (Mt 7:12; 1Jn 1:6); 7. To assign to a task (to cause someone to assume a particular type of function) (Mk 3:14); 8. To make profit, make money (Lk 19:18); 9. To be of opinion (an idiom, literally 'to make of reason) (Acts 20:24) ([Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament- Based on Semantic Domains](#))

**Poieo** in **Classical Greek** frequently appears in relation to man and his work, e.g., the making of a grave, the building of a house or temple, or the production of a work of art. In Greek mythology *poieō* describes the creative activity of the gods.

**Complete Biblical Library Greek-English Dictionary** - In the Septuagint **poieō** occurs more than 3,200 times and translates a great variety of Hebrew words. However, it most often translates 'āsâh, "to make, do," and less frequently bārâ', "to create." *Poieō* refers quite often to God's activity. It denotes His involvement in the creation of heaven and earth (Genesis 1:7,16,21,25,31) and man (Genesis 1:26,27). God is the One who "creates" His chosen people; literally, "And now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob ... " (Isaiah 43:1; see also Isa 44:2). *Poieō* also refers to God's action in bringing help and salvation to His people (Exodus 13:8; 14:13), and in working miracles (Exodus 15:11; Deuteronomy 11:3). **Poieō** also refers to human work. Man "prepares" cakes (Genesis 18:6), "makes" feasts (Genesis 21:8), "makes" war (Genesis 14:2), and "builds" altars (Exodus 20:24,25). Man was forbidden to "do" works on the Sabbath and Passover (Exodus 12:16; 20:9,10). ([Complete Biblical Library - Greek-English Dictionary](#))

**Zodhiates** - **(I)** To make, form, produce, bring about, cause, spoken of any external act as manifested in the production of something tangible, corporeal, obvious to the senses, completed action... **(II)** To do, expressing an action as continued or not yet completed, what one does repeatedly, habitually, like **prássō** (4238), to practice. ([Complete Word Study Dictionary- New Testament](#))

**BDAG** (summary - includes examples of uses in NT and the Septuagint - Lxx) -

**(1) to produce something material, make, manufacture, produce something.**

**OF HUMAN ACTIVITY:** Acts 9:39. Rev 13:14b. Acts 7:40 (Ex 32:1). pitch tents, build huts (1Chr 15:1; Mt 17:4; Mk 9:5; Lk 9:33. To make it (the tent of testimony) according to the model (Ex 25:40) Acts 7:44; cp. Heb 8:5. make something from or out of something Ex 20:24f; 28:15; 29:2) Jn 2:15; 9:6; Ro 9:21.

**OF DIVINE ACTIVITY:** specifically of God's creative activity create = Acts 7:50 (Isa 66:2). Heb 1:2 Acts 17:24. Ge 1:1; Ex 20:11; Ps 120:2; 145:6; Isa 37:16; Jer 39:17 Acts 4:24; 14:15b; cp. Rev 14:7. Lk 11:40 is classed here by many. Of the relation of Jesus to God = appointed him Heb 3:2 (cp. Isa 17:7).—God created them male and female Mt 19:4b; Mk 10:6 (both Ge 1:27c).—Pass. Heb 12:27.—the Creator Mt 19:4a.

**(2) to undertake or do something that brings about an event, state, or condition** = to do, cause, bring about, accomplish, prepare, etc.

**(a) do deeds**, Rev 2:5. 1Cor 5:2 2Ti 4:5 Jn 7:21. Pl. 14:12a; cp. vs. 12bc.

**(b) do, perform miracles** Mt 7:22; 13:58; Acts 19:11 Mk 6:5; 9:39. Mt 21:15 (Ex 4:17) Jn 2:23; 3:2; 7:31; 9:16; 11:47-48; 20:30; Rev 13:13a; 16:14; 19:20. Jn 6:30; 10:41. Acts 6:8; 7:36. Mk 3:8; 6:30; Lk 9:10.—Acts 10:39; 14:11.

**(c) of conditions bring about, etc.:** make, establish peace Eph 2:15; Js 3:18; provide a way out 1Cor 10:13; cause a disturbance among the people Acts 24:12; create difficulties Ro 16:17. On Mk 6:20; they brought joy to the members Acts 15:3

**(d) used w. a noun as a periphrasis for a simple verb of doing** Heb 8:9 (Jer 38:32 cp. Is 28:15; Lk 18:7f; cp. Acts 7:24 (execute in) Jn 5:27; Jude 1:15. Jas 3:1. Lk 1:68 (=accomplished). Wage war (on someone) Rev 11:7; 12:17; 13:7 (Da 7:21 Ge 14:2). Eph 3:11; Mk 3:6; 15:1; Acts 23:12; Mk 15:7

**(e) what is done is indicated by the neuter of an adj. or pron:** do what is good Ro 13:3; Jn 5:29; do good Mk 3:4; 1Pt 3:11 (Ps 33:15). Ro 7:21; 2 Cor 13:7b; Gal 6:9. Jas 4:17. Ro 13:4. 2Cor 13:7a, 1Pt 3:12 (Ps 33:17). Jn 8:29; cp. Heb 13:21b; 1Jn 3:22 1Cor 9:23; 10:31b; Mt 26:13; Mk 14:9; Jn 13:7, 27a. Mt 13:28; Mk 5:32; Lk 5:6; Jn 14:13, 14 Ro 7:15f, 20; 1Cor 11:24-25 Mt 21:23; 23:23; Gal 5:17; 2 Pt 1:10b. Jn 13:17; Ro 1:32; 2:3. Mt 5:46, 47b. Mk 10:17; cp. Jn 18:35; Mt 19:16. Mt 27:23; Lk 23:22; Mk 15:14. Mt 5:47a; what is this that you are doing? or why are you doing this? Mk 11:3; Acts 14:15a Mk 11:5. what are you doing, weeping? or what do you mean by weeping? Acts 21:13. do what you must do Jn 13:27

**(f) of meals or banquets, and of festivities of which a banquet is the principal part = give-** Lk 14:12. Mk 6:21; Lk 14:12, 16; Jn 12:2; Lk 5:29; 14:13; Mt 22:2.—Keep, celebrate the Passover feast Mt 26:18; Heb 11:28.

**(g) of the natural processes of growth; in plant life = send out, produce, bear, yield =** Mt 3:10; 7:17, 18, 19; 13:26; Lk 3:9; 6:43; 8:8; 13:9; Rev 22:2; also in imagery Mt 3:8; 21:43; Lk 3:8. Mk 4:32. Jas 3:12—Of capital yielding a return = the mina has made five minas Lk 19:18. Also of a person who operates w. capital make money = Mt 25:16.

**(h) with focus on causality** (the relation between a cause and its effect )

**α. The result of the action is indicated by the acc. and inf.; make (to), cause (someone) to, bring it about that =** Mt 5:32. Mk 1:17. Cp. Mk 7:37b; Lk 5:34 (force someone to fast); Jn 6:10; Acts 17:26; Rev 13:13b.— Rev 3:9; cp. Rev 13:12b, 16. Jn 11:37; Col 4:16; Rv 13:15.—as though we had made him walk Acts 3:12

**β. w. a double accusative, of the obj. and the pred. =** make someone or someth. (into) someth. Mt 4:19. Mt 21:13; Mk 11:17; Lk 19:46. Cp. Mt 23:15b; Jn 2:16; 4:46, 54; cp. Jn 2:11; Acts 2:36; 2Cor 5:21; Heb 1:7 (Ps 103:4); Rev 1:6; 3:12 Lk 15:19, 21 v.l. (cp. Ge 45:8; 48:20; take him by force, in order to make (him) king Jn 6:15.—1Cor 6:15. Claim that someone is something = pretend that someone is someth. Jn 8:53; 10:33; 19:7, 12; 1Jn 1:10; 5:10; make the paths straight Mt 3:3; Mk 1:3; Lk 3:4. Mt 5:36. Cp. Mt 12:16; 20:12b; 26:73; 28:14; Mk 3:12; Jn 5:11, 15; 7:23; 16:2; Acts 7:19; Eph 2:14 Rev 12:15; 21:5. (thereby) declaring that he was equal to God or making himself equal to God Jn 5:18.

**γ. w. adv. of place send outside =** put someone out (=send outside) Acts 5:34.

**(3) to carry out an obligation of a moral or social nature =** to do, keep, carry out, practice, commit

**(a) Do, keep the will or law obediently =** Mt 7:21; 12:50; Mk 3:35; J 4:34; 6:38; 7:17; 9:31; Eph 6:6; Heb 10:7, 9 (both Ps 39:9), Heb 10:36; 13:21; 1J n2:17;

**(b) Do, practice virtues =** live the truth Jn 3:21 1Jn 2:29; 3:7, 10; Rev 22:11

**(c) Do, commit, be guilty of sins and vices-** Jn 8:34; 2Cor 11:7; 1Pt 2:22; 1Jn 3:4, 8, 9; Jas 5:15

**(d) The manner of action is more definitely indicated by means of an adverb =** do good or well Mt 12:12; 1Cor 7:37, 38a Jas 2:8, 19; act shrewdly Lk 16:8;

**(e) The manner of the action is more definitely indicated by a prepositional expression =** do or act in accordance w. something; as they do Mt 23:3b; Lk 2:27.

**(4) To do something to others or something, do something to/with,** of behavior involving others, with some indication of the person (or thing) with whom something is done; the action may result to the advantage or disadvantage of this person: To someone's advantage = Mt 27:22, 20:32, 25:40, 45, To someone's

disadvantage -Mt 21:40, Mk 9:13

#### (5) To do, make, with variations in specialized expressions

(a) To get or gain something for oneself, provide oneself with something = Lk 12:33; 16:9 Jesus was gaining disciples Jn 4:1.

(b) of mental construction assume, suppose, take as an example = suppose the tree is good Mt 12:33.

(c) With an accusative of time = to spend, stay Acts 15:33;18:23, 20:3.

(d) Kalos poiein = do well - Phil 4:14; 2Pet 1:19; 3Jn 1:6

(e) this day of the Lord will turn out as (the Lord) wills - Mt 6:34 = the day of the Lord shall itself bring things about as (the Lord) wills.

(6) to be active in some way = work, be active - Rev 13:5

(7) To make/do something for oneself or of oneself - Lk 5:33 ([A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature](#))

**Complete Biblical Library Greek-English Dictionary** - In the New Testament **poieō** has a wide variety of meanings: "to make, do, create, bring about, execute, work, appoint, produce, accomplish, perform, act." As in the Old Testament, God is proclaimed as the One who created heaven and earth and everything that therein is (Acts 4:24; 14:15; 17:24; Revelation 14:7). He "brings about" justice for His chosen ones (Luke 18:7) and "executes" judgment upon all (Jude 15). God "brings" redemption to His people (Luke 1:68), "performs" mercy (Luke 1:72), and "works" in believers what is pleasing to Him (Hebrews 13:21). He "makes" himself known to the Gentiles (Acts 15:17) and "acted" through Paul and Barnabas (Acts 14:27; 15:4; 21:19). **Poieō is often used in reference to the acts of Jesus while He was on earth.** He "appointed" disciples (Mark 1:17), "performed" miracles (Matthew 21:15; Mark 6:5; etc.), and was accused of "making himself equal with God" (John 5:18; 8:53; 10:33; 19:7). Only in a few passages does poieō refer to the work of the exalted Lord (Revelation 1:6; 3:9,12; 5:10). Besides the many references of poieō in relation to usual human work, we see that man is responsible to "do" the will of God (Ephesians 6:6; Hebrews 10:36) and to "do" something to attain salvation (Mark 10:17; John 6:28; Acts 2:37). However, to "do" the works of the Law is contrasted with faith (Romans 10:5,6; Galatians 3:10,12). Poieō can have a wide variety of meanings depending on its object, e.g., "establish" peace (James 3:18); "prepare" meals or banquets (Luke 14:12); "produce" fruit (Matthew 3:10); "practice" virtues (John 3:21; 1 John 1:6); or "commit" sins (John 8:34). ([Complete Biblical Library - Greek-English Dictionary](#))

**Vine - TO MAKE** 1. poieo (4160), "to do, to make," is used in the latter sense (a) of constructing or producing anything, of the creative acts of God, e.g., Matt. 19:4 (2nd part); Acts 17:24; of the acts of human beings, e.g., Matt. 17:4; Acts 9:39; (b) with nouns denoting a state or condition, to be the author of, to cause, e.g., peace, Eph. 2:15; Jas. 3:18; stumbling blocks, Rom. 16:17; (c) with nouns involving the idea of action (or of something accomplished by action), so as to express the idea of the verb more forcibly (the middle voice is commonly used in this respect, suggesting the action as being of special interest to the doer); for the active voice see, e.g., Mark 2:23, of "making" one's way, where the idea is not that the disciples "made" a path through the standing corn, but simply that they went, the phrase being equivalent to going, "(they began) as they went (to pluck the ears)"; other instances of the active are Rev. 13:13, 14; 16:14; 19:20; for the middle voice (the dynamic or subjective middle), see, e.g., John 14:23, "will make Our abode"; in Acts 20:24, "none of these things move me," lit., "I make account of none of these things"; 25:17, "I made no delay" rv, Rom. 15:26; Eph. 4:16; Heb. 1:2; 2 Pet. 1:10; (d) to "make" ready or prepare, e.g., a dinner, Luke 14:12; a supper, John 12:2; (e) to acquire, provide a thing for oneself, Matt. 25:16; Luke 19:18; (J) to render or "make" one or oneself anything, or cause a person or thing to become something, e.g., Matt. 4:19; 12:16, "make (Him known)"; John 5:11, 15, to "make" whole; 16:2, lit., "they shall make (you put out of the synagogue)"; Eph. 2:14; Heb. 1:7; to change one thing into another, Matt. 21:13; John 2:16; 4:46; 1 Cor. 6:15; (g) to constitute one anything, e.g., Acts 2:36, (h) to declare one or oneself anything, John 5:18, "making (Himself equal with God)"; 8:53; 10:33; 19:7, 12; 1 John 1:10; 5:10; (i) to "make" one do a thing, e.g., Luke 5:34; John 6:10; Rev. 3:9. See do,

**(2) TO DO** - i.e., to adopt a way of expressing by act the thoughts and feelings. It stands for a number of such acts, chiefly **to make, produce, create, cause,** e.g., Mt. 17:4. **POIEO** is used of spending a time or tarrying, in a place, Acts 15:33; 20:3; in 2Cor 11:25 it is rendered "I have been (a night and a day)"; a preferable translation is "I have spent," as in Jas. 4:13, "spend a year" (rv). So in Matt. 20:12. Cf., the English idiom "did one hour"; in Rev. 13:5 "continue" is perhaps the best rendering.

**POIEO** - To appoint (name officially) - Heb 3:2, , Mk 3:14

**POIEO** - sometimes means "to produce, bear," Luke 8:8; 13:9; Jas. 3:12 (kjv, "bear," rv, "yield"); Rev. 22:2. It is used of the bringing forth of fruit, Mt. 3:8, 10; 7:17, 18. ([Make - Vine's Expository Dictionary of NT Words](#)) ([Do, Done - Vine's](#))

**NIDNTT** - Poieo in Classic Greek = 1. The verb POIEO, attested since Homer, and generally to be trans. to do, to make, has passed through a varied development. It is the basic term for all activity. The subjects belonging to the verb include both divinities and

human beings; more rarely they are material subjects (e.g. the soil or a tree produces). (a) In so far as Gk. literature reports the doings of the gods... the word takes on the meaning of to create, generate, give shape to. (b) Human doing and making can refer to any kind of activity. Used intrans., POIEO has the meaning of to act; positive or negative valuation is given from an ethical point of view. ([New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology](#))

**TDNTA - I. The Greek World and Stoicism.** 1. In myths poiēō denotes the creative activity of deity. Zeus creates all things, including heaven and the gods. Plato has the term for creating by the chief deity but not for fashioning by the demiurge. God is ho poiēs. 2. The Stoics seldom use the group for their deity. The lógos ho theós dwelling in hýlē is tó poioun for Zeno etc., but later writers do not use the group apart from Epictetus with his more personal view of God as poiētes or pater. Stoicism in general is more interested in the permeation of the world by deity and its resultant beauty and harmony. **II. The LXX.** 1. The LXX often uses the group for God's creative activity. God created heaven and earth (Gen. 1:1ff). He created humanity (1:27). He is ho poiēs (Pr. 14:31). He is the Creator of the chosen people (Isa 43:1). poiēsis denotes either his creating (Ps. 19:2) or his creation (Sir. 16:26). 2. The LXX often uses the terms for God's dealings in history. The poiēmata denote his actions or works (Eccl. 1:14). These take the twofold form of judgment (Nu 14:35; Ezek. 5:10) and salvation (Ex. 13:8). Signs and mighty acts testify to his working (Ex. 15:11; Dt. 11:3). 3. Angels etc. execute God's word (Job 40:19; Ps. 103:20). ([Theological Dictionary of the New Testament- Abridged in One Volume](#))

**Friberg -**

**I. active**, with a basic meaning make, do, and the translation varying widely to suit the context;

(1) of human activity involving external things make, construct, form (Mt 17.4);

(2) of God's creative activity create (Mt 19.4);

(3) of undertaking actions, bringing about states or conditions accomplish, do (a work) (Jn 8.41), perform (miracles) (Mt 7.22), bring about or make (peace) (Eph 2.15), prepare or give (a feast) (Luke 14.12), keep (a festival) (Mt 26.18), appoint (followers) (Mk 3.14), establish (a covenant) (Heb 8.9), wage (war) (Rev 11.7), do (good or evil) (Ro 13.3), acquire or make (a gain) (Lk 19.18), etc.;

(4) of the natural processes of growth produce, yield, bear, send out, bring forth (Mt 3.10);

(5) with the accusative and an infinitive to indicate the result of an action cause someone to, make or force someone to, bring it about that someone (Mt 5.32; Mk 1.17);

(6) with a double accusative as the object and predicate make someone or something (to be) something (Mt 4.19; 21.13);

(7) used with a noun to form a periphrasis for a simple verb of doing (e.g. literally make the vengeance, i.e. avenge Lk 18.7; literally make an ambush, i.e. plot, lie in wait Acts 25.3);

(8) with the manner of the action indicated by an adverb do (well) (Mt 12.12), act (wisely) (Lk 16.8), proceed (in the same way) (Mt 20.5);

**II. middle**, with basic meanings make or do something for oneself or perform with one's own resources;

(1) periphrastically, for a simple verbal idea: literally do a tarrying, i.e. make one's home with (Jn 14.23); literally make a throwing out, i.e. jettison (cargo) (Acts 27.18); literally make a remembrance, i.e. remember, keep in mind (2Pe 1.15); etc.;

(2) with a double accusative as the object and predicate - literally make firm the call, i.e. make one's calling (to be) sure (2Pe 1.10)

([Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament](#))

**Poieo** has a number of combination words and derivatives:

- agathopoieō = to do good to Mk 3:4, Lk 6:9, 33
- agathopoiia = Well-doing, a course of right action 1Pe 4:19
- agathopoiios = well doer 1Pe 2:14
- acheiropoiētos = Not made with hands Mk 14:58, 2Cor 5:1, Col 2:11
- eirēnopoieō = to make peace; Col 1:20
- eirēnopoios = Making peace. Mt 5:9
- eupoiia noun = Doing good. Heb 13:16
- zōopoiēō = to make alive; Jn 5:21, 6:63, Ro 4:17, 8:11
- kakopoieō verb = Do evil, harm, do wrong. Mk 3:4, Lk 6:9, 1Pe 3:17, 3Jn 1:11
- kakopoiós = evildoer; 1Pe 2:12, 14, 3:16, 4:15

- kalopoiéō = to live virtuously; 2Th 3:13
- moschopoiéō = to make a calf; Acts 7:41
- hodopoieō verb = Make a path, make a way. Mk 2:23
- ochlopoiéō = to make a crowd; Form a mob, Acts 17:5
- peripoiéō = to purchase, acquire, preserve, keep; Lk 17:33 Acts 20:28 1Ti 3:13
- poiēma = creation, work, action; Ro 1:20, Eph 2:10
- poiēsis = performance, action; James 1:25
- poiētes = creator, maker, doer; Acts 17:28
- prospoiéomai = to pretend; act as if - Lk 24:28
- skēnopoiós = tentmaker; Acts 18:3
- suzōopoieō = To make alive together with. Eph 2:15, Col 2:13
- cheiropoiētos = make by hands. Mk 14:58, Acts 7:48, 17:24, Eph 2:11, Heb 9:11, 24

**Poieo** - 568x in 514v in NAS -

#### IN THE GOSPELS:

- Mt 1:24; 3:3, 8, 10; 4:19; 5:19, 32, 36, 46-47; 6:1-3; 7:12, 17-19, 21-22, 24, 26; 8:9; 9:28; 12:2-3, 12, 16, 33, 50; 13:23, 26, 28, 41, 58; 17:4, 12; 18:35; 19:4, 16; 20:5, 12, 15, 32; 21:6, 13, 15, 21, 23-24, 27, 31, 36, 40, 43; 22:2; 23:3, 5, 15, 23; 24:46; 25:40, 45; 26:12-13, 18-19, 73; 27:22-23; 28:14-15;
- Mark 1:3, 17; 2:23ff; 3:4, 8, 12, 14, 16, 35; 4:32; 5:19f, 32; 6:5, 21, 30; 7:12f, 37; 9:5, 13, 39; 10:6, 17, 35f, 51; 11:3, 5, 17, 28f, 33; 12:9; 14:7ff; 15:1, 7f, 12, 14f;
- Luke 1:25, 49, 51, 68, 72; 2:27, 48; 3:4, 8ff, 14, 19; 4:23; 5:6, 29, 33f; 6:2f, 10f, 23, 26f, 31, 33, 43, 46f, 49; 7:8; 8:8, 21, 39; 9:10, 15, 33, 43; 10:25, 28, 37; 11:40, 42; 12:4, 17f, 33, 43, 47f; 13:9, 22; 14:12f, 16; 15:19; 16:3f, 8f; 17:9f; 18:7f, 18, 41; 19:18, 46, 48; 20:2, 8, 13, 15; 22:19; 23:22, 31, 34;
- John 2:5, 11, 15f, 18, 23; 3:2, 21; 4:1, 29, 34, 39, 45f, 54; 5:11, 15f, 18ff, 27, 29f, 36; 6:2, 6, 10, 14f, 28, 30, 38; 7:3f, 17, 19, 21, 23, 31, 51; 8:28f, 34, 38ff, 44, 53; 9:6, 11, 14, 16, 26, 31, 33; 10:25, 33, 37f, 41; 11:37, 45ff; 12:2, 16, 18, 37; 13:7, 12, 15, 17, 27; 14:10, 12ff, 23, 31; 15:5, 14f, 21, 24; 16:2f; 17:4; 18:18, 30, 35; 19:7, 12, 23f; 20:30; 21:25;
- Acts 1:1; 2:22, 36f; 3:12; 4:7, 16, 24, 28; 5:34; 6:8; 7:19, 24, 36, 40, 43f, 50; 8:2, 6; 9:6, 13, 36, 39; 10:2, 33, 39; 11:30; 12:8; 13:22; 14:11, 15, 27; 15:3f, 12, 17, 33; 16:18, 21, 30; 17:24, 26; 18:23; 19:11, 14, 24; 20:3, 24; 21:13, 19, 23, 33; 22:10, 26; 23:12f; 24:12, 17; 25:3, 17; 26:10, 28; 27:18; 28:17;

#### IN THE EPISTLES

- Rom 1:9, 28, 32; 2:3, 14; 3:8, 12; 4:21; 7:15f, 19ff; 9:20f, 28; 10:5; 12:20; 13:3f, 14; 15:26; 16:17;
- 1Cor 6:15, 18; 7:36ff; 9:23; 10:13, 31; 11:24f; 15:29; 16:1;
- 2Cor 5:21; 8:10f; 11:7, 12, 25; 13:7;
- Gal 2:10; 3:10, 12; 5:3, 17; 6:9;
- Eph 1:16; 2:3, 14f; 3:11, 20; 4:16; 6:6, 8f;
- Phil 1:4; 2:14; 4:14;
- Col 3:17, 23; 4:16;
- 1Thess 1:2; 4:10; 5:11, 24;
- 2Thess 3:4;
- 1 Tim 1:13; 2:1; 4:16; 5:21;
- 2 Tim 4:5; Titus 3:5;
- Philemon 1:4, 14, 21;
- Heb 1:2f, 7; 3:2; 6:3; 7:27; 8:5, 9; 10:7, 9, 36; 11:28; 12:13, 27; 13:6, 17, 19, 21;
- Jas 2:8, 12f, 19; 3:12, 18; 4:13, 15, 17; 5:15;
- 1 Pet 2:22; 3:11f;
- 2 Pet 1:10, 15, 19;
- 1 John 1:6, 10; 2:17, 29; 3:4, 7ff, 22; 5:2, 10; 3
- John 1:5f, 10;
- Jude 1:3, 15;
- Rev 1:6; 2:5; 3:9, 12; 5:10; 11:7; 12:15, 17; 13:5, 7, 12ff; 14:7; 16:14; 17:16f; 19:19f; 21:5, 27; 22:2, 11, 15

**Poieo** - Translated in NAS - Usage:

accomplished(1), act(4), acted(3), acting(1), acts(2), appointed(3), away\*(1), bear(5), bearing(1), bears(3),

become(1), bore(1), bring(1), bring... to pass(1), bring about(2), bringing(1), brings forth(1), call(1), carried(1), carries(1), carry(1), cause(3), causes(2), causing(1), commit(2), commits(2), committed(4), composed(1), consider(1), created things(1), dealt(1), **did**(33), did... do(2), **do**(170), **does**(16), does... do(1), **doing**(38), **done**(43), establishing(1), execute(4), exercises(1), expose\*(1), formed(1), formed a conspiracy(1), forms(1), gave(4), give(4), gives(1), giving(1), have(2), have kept(1), having(1), held(1), indulging(1), keep(3), keeps(1), kept(1), **made**(38), **make**(47), **makes**(7), **making**(9), observe(2), offer(1), offering(1), **perform**(4), **performed**(8), **performing**(7), performs(1), **practice**(5), **practices**(11), **practicing**(1), present(1), proceeding(1), produce(3), produced(1), produces(2), producing(1), provide(1), put(1), satisfy\*(1), setting(1), show(2), showed(1), shown(1), spend(1), spent(4), took(1), treat(6), treated(1), weaker(1), worked(1), working(1).

**As there are so many uses of poieo in the NT, here are only a sample - all uses in the Gospel of Matthew...**

Matt 1:24 And Joseph arose from his sleep, and **did** as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took [her] as his wife,

Matt 3:3 For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet, saying, "THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, 'MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, **MAKE** HIS PATHS STRAIGHT!'"

Matt 3:8 "Therefore **bring** forth fruit in keeping with repentance;

Matt 3:10 "And the axe is already laid at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not **bear** good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Matt 4:19 And He \*said to them, "Follow Me, and I will **make** you fishers of men."

Matt 5:19 "Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and so teaches others, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever **keeps** and teaches [them,] he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Matt 5:32 but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for [the] cause of unchastity, **makes** her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

Matt 5:36 "Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot **make** one hair white or black.

Matt 5:46 "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax-gatherers **do** the same?

Matt 5:47 "And if you greet your brothers only, what do you do more [than others?] Do not even the Gentiles **do** the same?

Matt 6:1 "Beware of **practicing** (present tense) your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.

Matt 6:2 "When therefore you **give** alms (**do** charitable giving), do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites **do** in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.

Matt 6:3 "But when you **give** alms (**do** charitable giving), do not let your left hand know what your right hand is **doing**

Matt 7:12 "Therefore, however you want people to **treat** you, so **treat** them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Matt 7:17 "Even so, every good tree **bears** good fruit; but the bad tree **bears** bad fruit.

Matt 7:18 "A good tree cannot **produce** bad fruit, nor can a bad tree **produce** good fruit.

Matt 7:19 "Every tree that does not **bear** good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Matt 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who **does** the will of My Father who is in heaven.

Matt 7:22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name **perform** (do) many miracles?'

Matt 7:24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and **acts upon** (does) them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock.



Matt 7:26 "And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not **act upon** (does) them, will be like a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand.

Matt 8:9 "For I, too, am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, '**Do** this!' and he **does** [it]."

Matt 9:28 And after He had come into the house, the blind men came up to Him, and Jesus \*said to them, "Do you believe that I am able **to do** this?" They \*said to Him, "Yes, Lord."

Matt 12:2 But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to Him, "Behold, Your disciples **do** what is not lawful to **do** on a Sabbath."

Matt 12:3 But He said to them, "Have you not read what David **did**, when he became hungry, he and his companions;

Matt 12:12 "Of how much more value then is a man than a sheep! So then, it is lawful **to do** good on the Sabbath."

Matt 12:16 and warned them not to **make** Him known,

Matt 12:33 "Either **make** the tree good, and its fruit good; or **make** the tree bad, and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit.

Matt 12:50 "For whoever **does** the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother."

Matt 13:23 "And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit, and **brings forth**, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty."

Matt 13:26 "But when the wheat sprang up and **bore** grain, then the tares became evident also.

Matt 13:28 "And he said to them, 'An enemy has **done** this!' And the slaves \*said to him, 'Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?'

Matt 13:41 "The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who **commit** lawlessness,

Matt 13:58 And He did not **do** many miracles there because of their unbelief.

Matt 17:4 And Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I **will make** three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

Matt 17:12 but I say to you, that Elijah already came, and they did not recognize him, but **did** to him whatever they wished. So also the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands."

Matt 18:35 "So shall My heavenly Father also **do** to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

Matt 19:4 And He answered and said, "Have you not read, that He who created (**ktizo**) [them] from the beginning **MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE**,

Matt 19:16 And behold, one came to Him and said, "Teacher, what good thing shall I **do** that I may obtain eternal life?"

Matt 20:5 "Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour, and **did** the same thing.

Matt 20:12 saying, 'These last men **have worked** [only] one hour, and you **have made** them equal to us who have borne the burden and the scorching heat of the day.'

Matt 20:15 'Is it not lawful for me **to do** what I wish with what is my own? Or is your eye envious because I am generous?'

Matt 20:32 And Jesus stopped and called them, and said, "What do you want Me **to do** for you?"

Matt 21:6 And the disciples went and **did** just as Jesus had directed them,

Matt 21:13 And He \*said to them, "It is written, 'MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER'; but you **are making** it a ROBBERS' DEN."

Matt 21:15 But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that He **had done**, and the children who were crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they became indignant,

Matt 21:21 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Truly I say to you, if you have faith, and do not doubt, you shall not only **do** what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' it shall happen.

Matt 21:23 And when He had come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to Him as He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are You **doing** these things, and who gave You this authority?"

Matt 21:24 And Jesus answered and said to them, "I will ask you one thing too, which if you tell Me, I will also tell you by what authority I **do** these things.

Matt 21:27 And answering Jesus, they said, "We do not know." He also said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I **do** these things.

Matt 21:31 "Which of the two **did** the will of his father?" They \*said, "The latter." Jesus \*said to them, "Truly I say to you that the tax-gatherers and harlots will get into the kingdom of God before you.

Matt 21:36 "Again he sent another group of slaves larger than the first; and they **did** the same thing to them.

Matt 21:40 "Therefore when the owner of the vineyard comes, what **will** he **do** to those vine-growers?"

Matt 21:43 "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you, and be given to a nation producing the fruit of it.

Matt 22:2 "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king, who **gave** (made) a wedding feast for his son.

Matt 23:3 therefore all that they tell you, **do** and observe, but do not **do** according to their deeds; for they say [things,] and do not **do** [them.]

Matt 23:5 "But they **do** all their deeds to be noticed by men; for they broaden their phylacteries, and lengthen the tassels [of their garments.]

Matt 23:15 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel about on sea and land to **make** one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you **make** him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.

Matt 23:23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should **have done** without neglecting the others.

Matt 24:46 "Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so **doing** when he comes.

Matt 25:40 "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you **did** it to one of these brothers of Mine, [even] the least [of them,] you **did** it to Me.'

Matt 25:45 "Then He will answer them, saying, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not **do** it to one of the least of these, you did not **do** it to Me.'

Matt 26:12 "For when she poured this perfume upon My body, she **did** it to prepare Me for burial.

Matt 26:13 "Truly I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman **has done** shall also be spoken of in memory of her."

Matt 26:18 And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is at hand; I [am to] **keep** the Passover at your house with My disciples.'""

Matt 26:19 And the disciples **did** as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover.

Matt 26:73 And a little later the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Surely you too are [one] of them; for the way you talk **gives** you away (makes [= poieo] you manifest [= delos\)."

Matt 27:22 Pilate \*said to them, "Then what **shall I do** with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all \*said, "Let Him be crucified!"

Matt 27:23 And he said, "Why, what evil has He **done**?" But they kept shouting all the more, saying, "Let Him be crucified!"

Matt 28:14 "And if this should come to the governor's ears, we will win him over and keep you out of trouble." (Lit **make** you free from care)

Matt 28:15 And they took the money and **did** as they had been instructed; and this story was widely spread

among the Jews, [and is] to this day.

**Poieo** in the non-apocryphal **Septuagint** -

Gen 1:1, 7, 11f, 16, 21, 25ff, 31; 2:2ff, 18; 3:1, 7, 13f, 21; 4:10; 5:1f; 6:6f, 14ff, 22; 7:4f; 8:6, 13, 21; 9:6, 24; 11:4, 6; 12:2, 18; 13:4, 16; 14:2; 18:5ff, 17, 19, 25; 19:3, 8, 19, 22; 20:5f, 9f, 13; 21:1, 6, 8, 13, 18, 22f, 26; 22:12, 16; 24:12, 14, 44, 49, 66; 26:10, 29f; 27:4, 7, 9, 14, 17, 19, 31, 37, 45; 28:15; 29:22, 25, 28; 30:30f; 31:1, 12, 16, 26, 43, 46; 32:9f, 12, 16; 33:2, 17; 34:7, 14, 19, 30; 35:1, 3; 37:3; 38:10; 39:3, 9, 11, 19, 22f; 40:14f, 20; 41:25, 28, 32, 34, 47, 51, 55; 42:18, 20, 28; 43:11, 17; 44:5, 7, 15, 17; 45:8f, 17, 21; 46:3; 47:29f; 48:4, 20; 50:10, 12; Exod 1:17f, 20f; 3:20; 4:11, 15, 17, 21, 30; 5:8, 15f; 6:1; 7:6, 10f, 20, 22; 8:7, 13, 18, 24, 31; 9:5f; 10:2, 25; 11:10; 12:12, 16f, 28, 35, 39, 47f, 50; 13:5, 8; 14:4f, 11, 13, 21, 31; 15:11, 26; 16:17; 17:4, 6, 10; 18:1, 8f, 14, 17f, 20, 23ff; 19:4, 8; 20:4, 6, 9ff, 23ff; 21:9, 11, 31; 22:30; 23:11f, 15f, 22, 24, 33; 24:3, 7; 25:8ff, 13, 17ff, 23ff, 28f, 31, 37f, 40; 26:1, 4ff, 10f, 14ff, 22ff, 26, 29, 31, 36f; 27:1ff, 6, 8f; 28:2ff, 6, 13ff, 22, 31, 33, 36, 39f, 42; 29:1f, 35f, 38f, 41; 30:1, 3ff, 18, 25, 32f, 35, 37f; 31:6, 11, 14ff; 32:1, 4, 8, 10, 14, 20f, 23, 28, 31, 35; 33:5, 17; 34:7, 10, 17, 22; 35:1f, 29, 32f, 35; 36:1, 3ff, 7f, 34f, 37; 37:1, 6, 10, 15ff, 29; 38:1, 3f, 8f, 20, 22, 28, 30; 39:1f, 4ff, 8f, 15f, 19f, 22, 24f, 27, 30, 32, 42f; 40:16, 30; Lev 2:7f, 11; 4:2, 13, 20, 22, 27; 5:4, 10, 17; 6:3, 7, 21f; 7:9, 24; 8:4f, 34, 36; 9:6f, 16, 22; 10:7; 11:32; 13:51; 14:19, 30; 15:15, 30f; 16:15f, 24, 29, 34; 17:4, 8f; 18:3ff, 26f, 29f; 19:4, 15, 27f, 35, 37; 20:8, 13, 22f; 22:23f, 31; 23:3, 7f, 12, 19, 21, 25, 28, 30f, 35f; 24:5, 19, 23; 25:18, 21; 26:1, 3, 14ff, 22; Num 1:54; 2:34; 4:3, 19, 23, 26, 35, 39; 5:4, 6f, 30; 6:11, 16f; 8:3f, 7, 12, 20, 22, 26; 9:2ff, 10ff; 10:2, 29, 32; 11:8, 15; 14:11f, 22, 28, 35; 15:3, 5f, 8, 11ff, 22, 24, 29f, 34, 38ff; 16:6, 28, 38; 17:11; 20:27; 21:8f, 34; 22:2, 17f, 20, 28, 30; 23:2, 11, 19, 26, 30; 24:13f, 18; 27:22; 28:4f, 8, 15, 18, 21, 24ff, 31; 29:1f, 7, 12, 35, 39; 30:2; 31:31; 32:8, 13, 20, 23ff, 31; 33:4, 56; 36:10; Deut 1:14, 18, 30, 44; 2:12, 22, 29; 3:2, 6, 21, 24; 4:1, 3, 5f, 13f, 16, 23, 25, 34; 5:1, 8, 10, 13f, 27, 31f; 6:1, 3, 18, 24f; 7:5, 11f, 18f; 8:1, 16ff; 9:12, 14, 16, 18, 21; 10:1, 3, 5, 18, 21f; 11:3ff, 22, 32; 12:1, 4, 8, 14, 25, 27f, 30ff; 13:11, 18; 14:29; 15:1, 3, 5, 11, 15, 17f; 16:1, 8, 10, 12f, 21; 17:2, 10ff, 19; 18:9, 12; 19:9, 19f; 20:12, 15, 18, 20; 21:9; 22:3, 5, 8, 12, 21, 26; 23:23; 24:8f, 18, 20, 22; 25:9, 16f; 26:14, 16, 19; 27:10, 15, 26; 28:1, 13, 15, 20, 58, 63; 29:2, 9, 24, 29; 30:5, 8, 10, 12ff; 31:4f, 12, 18, 21, 29; 32:6, 15, 27, 39, 46; 33:21; 34:9, 11f; Josh 1:7f, 16; 2:10, 12, 14; 3:5; 4:8, 23; 5:2f, 10; 6:14, 18, 26; 7:9, 15, 19f; 8:2, 8; 9:3f, 9f, 15, 20, 24ff; 10:1, 25, 28, 30, 32, 35, 37, 39; 11:9, 15, 18; 14:5; 17:13; 22:5, 23f, 26, 28; 23:3, 6, 8, 12; 24:5, 7, 20, 31;

Jdg 1:7, 24, 28; 2:2, 7, 10f, 17; 3:7, 12, 16; 4:1; 6:1f, 17, 19f, 27, 29, 40; 7:17; 8:1ff, 27, 35; 9:16, 19, 27, 33, 48, 56; 10:6, 15; 11:10, 27, 36f, 39; 13:1, 8, 15f, 19; 14:6, 10; 15:3, 6f, 10f; 17:3ff, 8; 18:3f, 14, 18, 24, 27, 31; 19:21, 23f; 20:6, 9f, 32; 21:7, 11, 15f, 22f, 25;

Ruth 1:8, 17; 2:11, 19; 3:4ff, 11, 16; 4:11;

1 Sam 1:7, 23f; 2:10, 14, 19, 22ff, 35; 3:11, 17f; 5:8f; 6:2, 7, 9f; 8:8, 12; 10:2, 7f; 11:7, 10, 13; 12:6f, 16f, 20; 13:9, 11, 19; 14:6f, 15, 36, 40, 43ff, 48; 15:2, 6, 19; 16:3f; 19:5, 18; 20:1f, 4, 8, 13f, 32; 22:3; 24:4, 6, 18f; 25:17f, 22, 28, 30; 26:16, 25; 27:11; 28:2, 9, 15, 17f; 29:7f; 30:23; 31:11;

2Sam 2:5f; 3:8f, 18, 20, 24f, 35f, 39; 5:25; 7:3, 9, 21, 23; 8:8, 13, 15; 9:1, 3, 7, 11; 10:2, 12; 11:11, 27; 12:4ff, 9, 12, 18, 21, 31; 13:2, 5, 7, 10, 12, 16, 27, 29; 14:15, 20ff; 15:1, 6, 20, 26; 16:10, 20; 17:6; 18:4, 13; 19:13, 18, 24, 27, 37f; 21:3f, 11, 14; 22:51; 23:10, 12, 17, 22; 24:10, 12, 17;

1 Kgs 1:5f, 30; 2:3, 5ff, 9, 23f, 31, 35, 38, 44; 3:6, 12, 15, 28; 5:8f, 16; 6:4f, 16, 20, 23, 31, 33; 7:14, 16ff, 23, 27, 37f, 40, 45, 47f, 51; 8:18, 30, 32, 39, 43, 45, 59, 64ff; 9:1, 3f, 8, 26; 10:9, 12, 16, 18; 11:6, 8, 10, 12, 25, 33, 38, 41; 12:21, 24, 28, 31ff; 13:11, 33; 14:22, 24, 27, 29; 15:3, 5, 7, 11ff, 23, 26, 31, 34; 16:5, 7, 14, 19, 25, 27f, 30, 33; 17:5, 12f, 15; 18:13, 23, 25f, 29f, 33f, 36; 19:1f, 20; 20:9f, 22, 24f; 21:7, 11, 20, 25f; 22:11, 22, 39, 43, 45, 52;

2 Kgs 1:18; 2:9; 3:2, 16; 4:2, 5, 10, 13f; 5:13, 17; 6:2, 15, 31; 7:2, 6, 9, 12, 19; 8:2, 4, 12f, 18, 23, 27; 10:5, 10, 19, 21, 24f, 30, 34; 11:5, 9; 12:2, 11, 13ff, 19; 13:2, 8, 11f; 14:3, 15, 18, 24, 28; 15:3, 6, 9, 18, 21, 24, 26, 28, 31, 34, 36; 16:2, 16, 19; 17:2, 8, 11f, 15ff, 19, 22, 29ff, 34, 37, 40f; 18:3f, 7, 12, 31; 19:11, 15, 30f; 20:3, 9, 20; 21:2f, 6, 9, 11, 15ff, 20, 25; 22:2, 5, 7, 9, 13; 23:4, 12, 15, 19, 21, 28, 32, 37; 24:3, 5, 9, 13, 16, 19; 25:16;

1 Chr 4:10; 5:10, 19; 10:11; 11:14, 19, 24; 12:32; 13:4; 14:16; 15:1, 19; 16:9, 12, 26; 17:2, 8, 19; 18:8, 14; 19:2, 13; 20:3; 21:8, 10, 17, 23, 29; 22:8, 12f, 15f; 23:5, 24; 26:8, 10; 28:10, 20; 29:19;

2 Chr 1:3, 5, 8; 2:3, 7, 12, 14, 18; 3:8, 10, 14ff; 4:1f, 4, 6ff, 11, 14, 16, 18f; 5:1; 6:8, 13, 23, 33, 35, 39; 7:7ff, 17, 21; 9:8, 11, 15, 17; 11:1, 15; 12:9f, 14; 13:8f; 14:2, 4, 7; 16:14; 18:10, 21; 19:6f, 9ff; 20:12, 32, 36; 21:6, 11, 19; 22:4; 23:4, 8; 24:2, 7, 11ff, 16, 22, 24; 25:2, 9, 16; 26:4, 11, 13, 15; 27:2; 28:1f, 24f; 29:2, 6; 30:1ff, 5, 12f, 21, 23; 31:20f; 32:13, 15, 27; 33:2f, 6ff, 22; 34:2, 10, 13, 16f, 21, 32f; 35:1, 6, 16ff, 21; 36:2, 5, 8f, 12;

Ezra 3:4, 8f; 4:22; 6:8, 11, 13, 16, 19, 22; 7:10, 18, 26; 10:4f, 11f, 16, 37; Neh 1:9; 2:12, 16, 19; 4:16f, 21; 5:9, 12f, 15, 19; 6:2f, 9, 13; 8:12, 15ff; 9:6, 10, 17f, 24, 26, 28f, 31, 33f; 10:29; 11:12; 12:27; 13:5, 7, 10, 14, 17f, 20, 27;

Esther 1:1, 3, 5, 8f, 13, 15, 20f; 2:4, 18, 20; 3:2, 7; 4:17; 5:4f, 8, 11; 6:3, 6, 10; 7:5; 8:3, 12; 9:29; 10:3;

Job 1:4f, 10, 17; 5:9, 11f, 18; 7:18, 21; 8:3; 9:9f, 12, 17; 10:8, 14; 11:7f, 10, 14; 12:9; 13:9; 14:3, 9, 13; 15:27; 16:7; 17:2; 19:2f; 21:31; 22:4, 17, 23; 23:9, 13; 24:12, 21; 25:2; 26:14; 28:24, 26; 29:4; 30:24; 31:3, 14; 33:4; 34:8, 11ff, 22; 35:3, 6, 10; 37:5, 15; 40:19f; 41:26, 33; 42:8f;

Ps 1:3; 7:3; 9:4, 15f; 11:3; 14:1, 3; 15:3, 5; 18:50; 22:31; 31:23; 34:14, 16; 37:1, 3, 5, 7, 27; 39:9; 40:5, 8; 50:21; 51:4; 52:2, 9; 53:1, 3; 56:4, 11; 60:12; 66:15f; 71:19; 72:18; 74:17; 77:14; 78:4, 12; 83:9; 86:9f, 17; 88:10; 95:5f; 96:5; 98:1; 99:4; 100:3; 101:3, 7; 103:6, 10, 18, 20f; 104:4, 19, 24, 32; 105:5; 106:2f, 19, 21; 107:23, 37; 108:13; 109:16, 21, 27; 111:4, 8, 10; 115:3, 8, 15; 118:6, 15f, 24; 119:65, 73, 84, 112, 121, 124, 126; 121:2; 124:8; 126:2f; 134:3; 135:6f, 18; 136:4f, 7; 139:15; 140:12; 143:8, 10; 145:19; 146:6f; 147:20; 148:8; 149:2, 7, 9;

Pr 1:7, 25; 2:16; 3:27f; 4:26f; 5:7f; 6:3, 8; 7:10; 8:23, 26, 28f; 10:16; 11:17f, 24; 12:22; 13:6, 23; 14:27, 31; 16:7, 12; 17:5, 16, 22, 28; 20:11; 21:3, 15, 25; 22:2, 16; 24:34; 25:22; 26:28; 29:13; 30:8, 26; 31:4, 13, 22, 24, 29;

Eccl 1:9, 14; 2:2f, 5f, 8, 11f, 17; 3:9, 11f, 14; 4:3; 5:1; 6:12; 7:14, 20, 29; 8:3f, 9ff, 14, 16f; 9:3, 6, 10; 10:19; 11:5; 12:12;

Song 1:11; 3:9f; 8:8;

Isa 1:17, 24; 2:8, 20; 5:2, 4f, 7, 10, 19; 7:22; 8:1f; 9:1, 7; 10:3, 6, 11ff, 23; 12:5; 16:3; 17:7f; 19:10, 15, 21; 20:2; 22:11, 13, 16; 23:17; 25:1, 6; 26:10, 18; 27:4f, 11; 28:2, 15, 21f; 29:15f, 21; 30:1, 22, 30; 31:7; 32:6, 10; 33:1, 13, 23; 37:11, 16, 26, 31f; 38:3, 7, 19; 39:7; 40:3, 19, 23; 41:4, 15, 18, 20, 23, 29; 42:5, 16; 43:1, 3, 7, 13, 19, 22f; 44:2, 7, 9, 13, 17, 19, 28; 45:7, 9, 11f, 18, 21; 46:4, 6, 10f; 48:3, 5f, 11, 14; 49:20; 51:13; 52:7; 53:9; 54:5; 56:1f; 57:9, 16; 58:2, 13; 62:6, 11; 63:12, 14; 64:3ff; 65:8, 12, 18; 66:2, 4, 9, 22;

Jer 1:12; 2:13, 17, 23, 28; 3:5f, 16; 4:18, 22, 27, 30; 5:1, 10, 18f, 31; 6:8, 13, 26; 7:5, 10, 12ff, 17f, 29f; 8:6; 9:7, 24; 10:11ff, 24; 11:4, 6, 8, 15, 17; 12:2, 5; 13:23; 14:7, 22; 15:4; 16:6, 20; 17:8, 11, 22, 24; 18:3f, 6, 8, 10ff, 23; 19:12; 21:2; 22:3ff, 8, 15, 17; 23:5, 20; 26:3, 13f, 19; 27:2, 5; 28:6, 13, 15; 29:22f, 31f; 30:16, 24; 31:7, 13, 21, 37; 32:17f, 20, 23, 30, 32, 35; 33:2, 6, 9; 34:15, 18; 35:10, 15, 18; 36:3, 8; 37:15; 38:9, 12, 16; 40:3, 16; 41:9, 11; 42:3, 5, 10, 20; 44:3f, 7, 9, 17, 19, 22, 25; 46:19, 28; 48:10, 30, 33; 49:8; 50:2, 15, 21, 29; 51:12, 15f, 24; 52:20;

Lam 1:21f; 2:6, 17, 20;

Ezek 3:20; 4:9, 15; 5:7ff, 15; 7:20, 23, 27; 8:6, 9, 12f, 17f; 9:11; 11:9, 13, 20; 12:3, 7, 9, 11, 25, 28; 13:18; 14:23; 15:3; 16:5, 16f, 24, 30f, 41, 43, 47f, 50f, 54, 59, 63; 17:6, 8, 15, 17f, 23f; 18:5, 8ff, 12ff, 17ff, 21f, 24, 26ff, 31; 20:9, 11, 13f, 17, 19, 21f, 24, 44; 22:3f, 9, 13f; 23:10, 21, 25, 29f, 38f, 44, 48; 24:14, 18f, 22, 24; 25:11f, 14f, 17; 26:8; 27:5f; 28:4, 22, 26; 29:3, 9, 15; 30:14, 19; 31:11; 33:13ff, 18f, 29, 31f; 35:4, 11, 14; 36:11, 22, 27, 32, 36f; 37:14, 24; 38:12; 39:21, 24; 43:8, 11, 25, 27; 44:14; 45:9, 17, 20, 22ff; 46:2, 12ff;

Dan 1:13; 2:9, 46; 3:1, 15; 4:1f, 17, 35; 5:1, 23; 6:10, 12, 18, 22, 27; 7:8, 21; 8:4, 12, 24f, 27; 9:14f, 19; 11:3, 6f, 16f, 23f, 28, 30, 32, 36, 39;

Hos 2:8; 6:4, 9; 8:4, 6f, 14; 9:5; 10:3, 15; 11:9; 13:2;

Joel 2:21, 26;

Amos 2:4, 8; 3:6f; 4:12f; 5:7f, 26; 7:10; 8:5; 9:12;

Obad 1:15;

Jonah 1:5, 9ff, 14; 3:10; 4:5;

Mic 1:8; 5:15; 6:3, 8; 7:9;

Nah 1:8f;

Hab 1:14; 2:18; 3:17;

Zeph 1:18; 3:5, 13, 19f;

Hag 1:14; 2:4; Zech 1:6, 21; 6:11; 7:3, 9; 8:11, 15f; 10:1;

Mal 2:12f, 15, 17; 3:15, 17; 4:1, 3;