

Ethical Dimensions in the Examination of Sexual Immorality in Nigeria

John Ishaku

Department of Christian Religious Studies

Kaduna State University, Kaduna

Email: johnishaku73@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Sexual immorality is one of the serious moral decadency in our society today. Although both the Old and the New Testament is against it, however, it has increased in different dimension at alarming rate. It is an act that is humiliating and degrading to men and women due to the lust of flesh and pleasure. This practice can lead to the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and traumatic stress disorder in the system which in turn leads to crisis in human body which can also lead to death. For that our pastors should teach their members to shun sexual immorality. The non-government organization (N.G.O.s) should encourage abstinence among young people.

INTRODUCTION

Before the coming of Christianity and Islam adultery is prohibited. This value has been so cherished and the state of virginity is well honour especially among girls. And if one is caught in the act of adultery certain charges or punishment will be given to him. When Christianity came to Nigeria adultery was still prohibited as a sin as noted in Exodus chapter 20 of the Holy Bible. That you should not commit adultery and Jesus also said that when you look at a woman lustfully you have already committed fornication or adultery, sex is only for the married couple just like how God created Adam and Eve Sarah and Abraham.

But because of the lust of the flesh sex either fornication or adultery has become a normal routine among some human beings who have diverted from the will of God in order to have pleasure. Parents fail their responsibility to train and to provide the needs of their children there may be this tendency that she may give herself out to men by having sex in order to get money and provides their needs peer groups can be responsible in promoting sexual immorality among the young ones by teaching those that are not expose to sex at their level of interaction, reading and watching pornography also stimulates the young into

sexual immorality because after watching or reading the next thing is to practice it. Media culture which is supposed to be an agent of morality display some shows that has to do with romance, kissing, half naked and sex and that also arouse the impulses to sex. Globalization also brought people together to interact in different capacity and at the process of interaction civilization is been inculcated and discussion about sex is social and having sex is a social life and to the young ones if you don't do that then you are not civilize and you cannot been carry away by the civilize world secularization has also contributed to sexual immorality. This sexual immorality has adverse effects such as violation of human sanctity and purity, being a rebel to God by disobeying him through committing sin, sexual immorality has so many health complications such as the spread of sexually transmitted diseases such as aids, it is also a contributing factor to illegal abortion when a woman takes in out of wed luck. All this can lead one to pre-mature death by contracting sexual transmitted disease or in the process of aborting the pregnancies.

CHRISTIANITY AND SEXUALITY

Sexuality is a gift to mankind Anyam (14: 2011) noted that the purpose of sexuality according to the five chapter of Genesis is for procreation "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue Genesis 1: 28. Also another purpose for human sexuality is for companionship "it is not good for man to be alone, I will make him a helper set for him" (Genesis 2:18) man has been created as a being for he need a companion and God therefore made the woman in order to give a partner and free him from loneliness sexuality reaches deep into the human soul. For the sake of this completion and mutual companionship man and woman leaves their parental family. They establish their own community, which culminates in that mutual living by which they form so ultimate from a union that can be called one flesh shield (68: 2002) also noted that sexuality is for the married couples and any sex outside marriage is a sin.

The New Testament also warns us to flee from licentiousness to follow the Lord and not prostitute and to make the body as holy temple of the Holy Spirit, it is therefore no accident that in the list of voice idolatry. 1Thes. 4:4-8 see the sanctification required by God for all form as purity on married life. In the list of vice, in 1Cor. 6:9 he warns neither fornication nor idolatry, nor the effeminate nor liars with mankind will inherit the kingdom of God. According to 1cor

(62:1994) all societies have viewed marriage and sexual relations as of the utmost importance not only for the individual but also for survival wellbeing of the community and that is why in the Nigeria society when a man caught sleeping with another person's wife there are penalty attach to the two involved in that crime which is the society collectively that sanction those that are involved.

SEXUAL IMMORALITY TODAY

Fornication and adultery among the married couples and singles is no longer considered as sinful. The necessary connection between the two has often been deliberately over looked. Within a wider context, we discover that the newspapers sometimes lament about the number and variety of sex crimes either a man sleeping with another person wife, rape, lesbianism, homosexuals etc. Shield (86:2004) noted that God plan for creating male and female is for procreation and companionship through marriage and the male and the female organ is for procreation to give birth multiply and subdue Mwues (43:2014) noted that among the Tiv people of Benue State virginity is much cherished and that is the pride of a young girl that is preparing to marry he also noted that.

“African traditional society has a mechanism for checkmating sexual morality. This was done variously, and in this regard, the Tiv adopted Ikyoor treats the issue of virginity in respect to a girl-child. A girl-child as far as Tiv traditional holds must be stainless until she was given into marriage Kyoor traditional was a wonderful customs engineered and ordained by the Ingbien-jov priestess to preserve the purity of the female child. The female child in every family once she became of age was taken to the Ingbien-Jovpriestess where Ikyoor (small shell) would be that around her neck to serveas a reminder to men. Once fanciful, the girl was to stay pure and free from any carnal knowledge of a man until she got married the snail was unfiled from her next by the priestess”.

One of the prevailing challenges we are facing today in Nigeria society is people behaviour toward sex pre-marital sex is common which may lead to the girl child drop out or becoming a nursing mother at her tender age, also when a girl is pregnant without a responsible legal husband the temptation to terminate or about the pregnancy is at the higher side or one may contact a

sexual transmitted disease that can lead to death. For the purpose of sex has been abuse and it has a great effect to human life.

THE CAUSES OF SEXUAL IMMORALITY

Imo (48:2008) notes that it is as a result of the pluralistic society in which we found ourselves there is a large scale deterioration of morality. During the 21st century one can clearly see that society conception toward sex, people felt that adultery is a choice to do or not to do and the also feel that we are in a free world and let enjoy our self. Thus mean to some people that sexual conduct and other aspect of morality are things that most individuals now feel they can decide for themselves.

Peer Group Influence

Ishaku, J, (23:2011) noted that the peer influence is a very strong force that has contributed a great deal in robbing the youth of their good morals. Most teenagers change their attitude towards sexuality before marriage. When the come in contact with new friends that influence than not only the youth but even among the adults some friends influence other into sexual immoral acts especially for those who are lust in the flesh but for those who knows the implication of sex outside marriage or before marriage cannot be carry away by friends.

The Influence of Pornography

Anyam (53:2011) noted that pornography referred to the depiction of sexual subject matter for the purpose of providing sexual excitement to the viewers on how to make sex and this motives stimulates human sexual organs to commit adultery or fornications among youths and adults, also the spend reasonable amount of money to buy pornography magazine etc.

The Media Culture

The media culture plays an important role in the Nigeria society by passing information about the recent events taking place within and outside Nigeria society. But some people criticize the growing uniformity of most culture for lowering the general standard of taste as nakedness and half naked appearance and Sometimes Kissing, Romancing and having sex. Dyaji, D, (28:2002) also noted that another factor that contribute to the rapid moral decline in the

society are the television produces, the movie star, the fashion advertises the gangster reappear for these are harmful values, since life is shaped mainly by what you learn from the television, the movie screen, the C.D player. More recently the internet can be added to these lists and if care is not taken time shall come when people will be sleeping with one another on the street without shame.

Globalization

Ishaku, J. (2010) notes that globalization is one of the most profound revolutions the world has ever known. Indeed, globalization is the first truly world revolution. All revolutions disrupt the tradition and customs of the people; indeed they threaten people's very security, safety and even identity. The word revolution, that is, globalization in some people, it is also noted that globalization referred to increasing global inter-connectedness so that events and development in one part of the world are affected by, have to account to and influence, in turn, other part of the world. It also refers to an increasing series of a single global whole and these affects our sexuality because we emulate anything we see without looking at the negative effects. No wonder our youth involved in pre-marital sex and our adults engage in extra-marital sex.

Secularization

Dyaji D. (10:2012) noted that one of the most important changes in society during the past two centuries is secularization: A movement which educates that people should be afforded the opportunity to take their stand on different viewpoints on their own. This movement has its origin among the 18th century philosophers of the Enlighten who were the free to reference the Bible as the only source of truth. Thus, religious are not looked to fear moral guidance as much as they were in the past. This really affected people life especially on moral sanctity especially on sexual behaviour since no any religious book that will help in guiding people's spiritual life, for people live a lust life. For this philosophy that was formulated in the 18th century took more than 200 years to grow because the movement towards secularization was slow. This movement however, became sharply accelerated during the 20th century and that is why most people normally say we are in a free world and we can decide what we want and how we want to like our life without any restriction.

THE EFFECT OF SEXUAL IMMORALITY

Violation OF Human Sanctity and Purity

Iwe (6:2003) notes that a normal human created in God's image and likeness (Gen. 1:26) for we are different from other animals in that our sanctity and purity must be kept by absence from fornication and adultery. We are violating human sanctity and purity which is wrong and unacceptable by biblical injunction.

Rebel to God

The Bible tells us not to commit fornications and adultery but if we insist on committing the sin of sexual immorality we are rebelling against God because God is Holy and anybody that wanted to serve him truly must be Holy if not then the person is just mocking at God.

Premature Death

Death is compulsory and inevitable it may be as a result of old age or sickness but there are death that occur as a result of negligence or carelessness such as contacting sexual transmitted diseases or going into abortion to terminate pregnancy this are intentional acts that can lead to premature death.

The Risk of Sexual Dysfunction

People spend millions of dollars to correct sexual dysfunction through drugs and psychotherapy. Why? Because they entered marriage with unresolved sexual issues. For example, a man may think that he will be free from the curse of pornography once he gets married, only to find that the problems are even more noticeable and controlling. Sexual purity before marriage is the first step to incredible sexual fulfillment after marriage. Mark 7:21 - "For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery..." Hebrews 13:4 - Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

The Risk of Shame

Premarital sex imputes a spiritual state of shame that becomes a major weapon of Satan. God forgives you, but you will still face the fruit of the sin and you'll still be vulnerable to Satan's whispering accusations on your worth as a person and your value as an active Christian. 1 Corinthians 5:1-2 - It is actually reported

that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that does not occur even among pagans: A man has his father's wife. And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have been filled with grief and have put out of your fellowship the man who did this?

The Risk of Depression

Those who participate in premarital sex experience emotional damage that may lead to an increased chance of mental depression and emotional despair. 2 Corinthians 12:21 - I am afraid that when I come again my God will humble me before you, and I will be grieved over many who have sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual sin and debauchery in which they have indulged. Jude 1:7 In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire.

Spread of Hiv/Aids

Ajibola, G. (39:2001) also noted that sexual immorality can lead to spread of acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) which is a deadly disease that does not have a cure. Sexual immorality can lead to punishment, Leviticus 26:15-16 "if you refuse to obey my laws and commandments, I will bring disaster on you including incurable diseases and fevers that will make you blind and cause your life to waste away" and presently Acquired Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is currently the great enemy to public health worldwide. There are many consequences that result from being disobedient to God when it comes to fornication. First of all you are defiling His holy temple as we saw earlier in 1 Corinthians 6:19. Would you go into a church and vandalize the sanctuary? That is the same thing as defiling your body, which is a temple of the Holy Spirit. Another consequence is unwanted pregnancy. Statistics have skyrocketed into a negative direction as a result of fornication. If people would save sex until marriage, there never would have been a movement to legalize abortion which is also sin. Abortion came about as a result of man trying to cover up sin. Due to disobedience to God, approximately 46 million babies have been aborted since 1973. The current count for abortions in the U.S. per year stands at 1.3 million. Due to fornication, 40 percent of babies are born out of marriage yearly. That is a 30 percent increase from just twenty years ago. Due to fornication over 65 million people in the US have a viral STD with nearly 19

million new cases each year. Percentage wise, nearly half of people will contract an STD in their lifetime.

Fornication also relates to why 50% of marriages end in divorce. This is because many go into marriage with wounded emotions, spirits, and diseased bodies. When you decide to lie with someone outside of marriage, stop and think about whether you want to get married some day or not. If you are like most people, you will desire marriage at some point. The day may come when you have found the love you have always dreamed of but having to face that person and tell them of all the prior partners and sexually transmitted diseases that you are dragging into your marriage may not go over too well and can be devastating...especially if your potential spouse's background is at the opposite end of the spectrum. Therefore, many marriages begin with two strikes against it already if the relationship does not die before making it to the altar. When you choose to fornicate, you sin against your own body and against a possible future spouse. There are many cases of a spouse having a life long struggle with their mate's promiscuity.

If you are a woman, think about if you desire having kids some day. 100,000 to 150,000 women become infertile each year as a result of STDs. And if you do not become infertile, some STDs can cause your child to be born with defects such as blindness. Don't make your child suffer because of your disobedience to God. Even if a child has no physical defect, a single parent home can cause them to have emotional scars due to lack of love from a mother and a father.

CONCLUSION

Ethically sexual immorality is wrong because the Holy Bible frowns at the practices because it brings about disgrace and destruction to that who practice it and that has negative effect such as school dropouts, spread of sexually transmitted disease and premature death. For this reason sexual immorality should be avoided by Human being in all ramifications.

RECOMMENDATION

- The Bible does not condemn sex, it condemn only the pervasion or abuse of it, In short, the emphasis that sex and sexual pleasure were created by God with no other limit than marriage.

- There is need for such programme and sermons in the church on family living to sensitize adult, the Girls Brigade, the Boys Scout and other such youth clubs can be effectively mobilized to reach moral education and discourage immoral sexual activities among youth and adults in our society.
- Parent must not and should not abandon their moral responsibility in giving moral education and religious teaching to the young ones to keep them on the right path.
- Religious leaders should give a sound doctrine to their followers on how to avoid fornication and adultery.
- The mass media should serve as agent of moral and socialization in the sense that our value should not be overtaking by imparting strange and foreign moral system. Thus, it would have much impact on the psyche of our Nigerian youth. These influences may not be all negative but that is subjective and left to the disposition and experience of the one making the assessment.

The school should also play her role by teaching the students to observe themselves from sexual immorality because it can lead to pregnancy or it can lead to the spread of sexually transmitted diseases like HIV/AIDs. The Government should introduce sex education in our school curriculum so that adult or teenagers will be taught on how to absent themselves from premarital sex and also to learn the negative effects of having pre-marital sex. Non government organizations should organize workshops and conferences in order to educate the youth on how to live without pre-marital sex and also to be educated on the effect of pre-marital sex that can lead a girl child to be drop from the school or become a nursing mother at her early age, to also know that pre-marital sex can lead to the spread of sexually transmitted disease and pre-marital death.

REFERENCES

- Ajibola, G, (2002) *“Sex and sin in Academic campus”* The campus light a Publication of Christian Religious Education Students ABU Zaria.
- Ajibola, G, (2001) *“AIDS scourge, Aids Education and National unity”* a paper presented at the conference of the national Association for promotion of studies in Arts and social science, at federal University of Technology Akure, Ondo State on 30th July – 2nd August.

Ethical Dimensions in the Examination of Sexual Immorality in Nigeria

- A. nyam, T. (2011) issues in moral philosophy Nigeria Obeta Continental press.
- Dyaji D, (2002) Moral youths in the society: its causes, *Effect and Remedies*". The Campus Light. A publication of Christian Religion Education Student ABU Zaria.
- Esthons, F, (2002) "*An Adulterous Generation*" the campus light a Publication of Christian Religion Education Student ABU Zaria.
- Holy Bible, (1973), U.S.A. Nashville Tennessee, Gideon International.
- Iwe, S, (2003) The Inseparable social trinity, religion morality and law Calabar University press.
- Omoregbe, J. (1993) Ethics A systematic and Historical study. Nigerian JoJa Educational Research and publishers Limited.
- Shield, N, (2004) Christian Ethnics Nigeria City press. Imo C. (2005) Postgraduate lecture notes in Ethics and philosophy, University of Jos.
- Ilori, J, (1994) Moral philosophy in Africa content Zaria ABU Press limited.
- Mwues, P, (2014) "*The Tiv Religion Cultural, Importance of Ikyoor Cult in the Preservation of Virginity and Pre-marital Sex*" Mkar Journal of Inter-Disciplinary Studies. Vol. 5 No. 1, 2014.