

## New Testament Texts

Jesus speaking: “For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, **fornication** [πορνεία; *porneia*], theft, false witness, slander. **These are what defile a person...**” (Matthew 15:19-20, NRSV, emphasis added).

Jesus speaking: “For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: **fornication** [πορνεία; *porneia*], theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and **they defile a person**” (Mark 7:21-23, NRSV, emphasis added).

Paul speaking in Jesus’ authority: “Finally, brothers and sisters, we ask and urge you **in the Lord Jesus** that, as you learned from us how you ought to live and to please God...you should do so more and more. For **you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus**. For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you **abstain from fornication** [πορνεία; *porneia*]; that each one of you know how to control your own body in holiness and honor, not with lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God...For God did not call us to impurity but in holiness. Therefore **whoever rejects this rejects not human authority but God...**” (1 Thessalonians 4:1-8, NRSV, emphasis added).

Leaders of the Jerusalem church speaking: “For **it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us** to impose on you no further burden than these **essentials: that you abstain...from fornication** [πορνεία; *porneia*]. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well” (Acts 15:28-29, NRSV, emphasis added; cf. Acts 15:20; 21:25).

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## Definitions of *porneia* [Greek πορνεία, often translated “fornication” or “sexual immorality”]

“Since in Rom 1:26f. Paul clearly alludes to homosexuality as sin, **πορνεία can also refer to homosexuality as sexual immorality**, as does ἐκπορνεύω in Jude 7” (Horst Balz and Gerhard Schneider, editors; *Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament* [Volume 3]; Eerdmans, 1990; p. 137; emphasis added).

“Ancient Judaism regarded **homosexual activity and bestiality as subcategories of the larger issue of sexual immorality**” (Craig A. Evans and Stanley E. Porter, editors; *Dictionary of New Testament Background*; InterVarsity, 2000; p. 14; emphasis added).

“While Gk. *porneia* can mean ‘fornication,’ it has ordinarily a broader reference. It **includes and sometimes explicitly refers to** incest, fornication, **homosexual behavior**, prostitution, and adultery” (G.W. Bromiley, editor; *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* [Volume One]; Eerdmans, 1979; p. 977; emphasis added).

“...*porneia* is used in the NT for all kinds of immorality, including adultery and homosexuality” (Ralph Earle; *Word Meanings in the New Testament* [One-Volume edition]; Baker, 1986; p. 227; emphasis added).