

How well do you know the Catholic faith? Well, let's find out..."

My son came to me with the question: ***What is meant by fornication? What should I say?***

A) Fornication is an old Greek word. In today's world it doesn't mean a lot.

B) Fornication (from the Greek porneia) originally meant pagan sexual practice, for instance, temple prostitution. That's all.

C) Fornication (from the Greek porneia) originally meant pagan sexual practice, for instance, temple prostitution. Later the term was applied to all forms of sexual activity outside of marriage. Today in English it generally refers to consensual sexual relations between an unmarried man and an unmarried woman. (CCC 2353) Fornication is often based on seduction, lies, violence, dependency, and abuse. Fornication is therefore a serious offense against charity; it harms the dignity of the person and fails to recognize the meaning of human sexuality. Civil authorities have the duty to protect minors especially from fornication.

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A) This is a very tricky question. There is nothing wrong in prostitution.

B) In prostitution "love" becomes a commodity and the person is degraded to an object of pleasure. That is why prostitution is a serious offense against human dignity and a serious sin against charity.

C) We should not talk about this kind of the stuff with teenagers.

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