

## STUDY 4 - FREE LOVE

“Try before you buy is an antidote to divorce.”

#friends-with-benefits #erotic #fornication #sexuality #eros #hook-up #one-night-stand

Margaret Sanger was born in 1879 in Corning, New York. She was one of eleven children. Her father was a stone-mason and his large family always struggled with poverty. Margaret’s mother died at the age of 50 and Margaret always believed that her mother had died because her eleven pregnancies had worn her out. Margaret went on to train as a nurse and worked with many pregnant migrant women who were also trapped in poverty and struggling to feed their existing large families.

“Working as a visiting nurse, she frequented the homes of poor immigrants, often with large families and wives whose health was impaired by too many pregnancies, miscarriages, or in desperation botched abortions.”<sup>7</sup>

Many of these poor mothers asked Margaret “What’s the secret?” These migrant women were asking Sanger how it was that most “white women” never seemed to have large families. At that time the United States had a federal law, “*The Comstock Law*”, which prohibited the distribution of contraception literature. In 1914 Sanger was charged with violating the Comstock law and fled to England to avoid prosecution. She returned a year later to stand trial. But when her 5-year daughter died, these charges were dropped out of sympathy for her.

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<sup>7</sup> Debra Michels 2017. <https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/margaret-sanger>

Over the next few years Sanger established *Planned Parenthood* which became America's largest abortion provider and managed to convince most people that abortion was actually *reproductive healthcare*.<sup>8</sup> Over the next few decades this resulted in the Supreme Court of the America (SCOTA) passing what was described as a "landmark" decision on January 22nd 1973 to decriminalise abortion on demand in the infamous *Roe v. Wade* case. During this case it was argued that a woman had a right to do whatever she wanted with her own body including her pregnancy. Thus, abortion was argued as *ending a pregnancy*. This idea was reinforced by the "scientific fact" that a woman was pregnant with a blob of mucous-like tissue clinically referred to as an *embryo* or *foetus*, rather than as a *baby*. In 1992 the Supreme Court's decision was affirmed in the case brought forward by Planned Parenthood (*Planned Parenthood v. Casey*). Planned Parenthood is now the world's largest commercial abortion-on-demand provider with an annual turnover of 1.3 billion dollars!<sup>9</sup>

The late 1960s is often referred to as the beginning of the *sexual revolution*. Some commentators have noted that the introduction in 1961 of the contraceptive pill had led to a time when women could now be "sexually liberated" and sexually behave "like men" without the consequences of pregnancy or child-birth. The expression *free love* was thus coined by those in this counter-cultural (hippie) movement which was reaction to conservative notions of: (i) personal responsibility to the broader community; (ii) sex-as-sacred therefore only allowed within a marriage covenant; (iii) marital fidelity (a life-long exclusive commitment between one man and one woman as husband and wife); and, (iv) self-control over ones passions.

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<sup>8</sup> This is an example of a *euphemism* - using positive sounding words to disguise something that is often sinister and harmful.

<sup>9</sup> Source: Charlotte Lozier Institute, <https://lozierinstitute.org/fact-sheet-planned-parenthoods-2021-22-annual-report/>

## WHY THE SEXUAL REVOLUTION HAS BEEN A DISASTER FOR WOMEN

Louise Perry is a journalist and a feminist. She used to work in a rape crisis centre and it was eventually the many stories of abused women that led to her writing her ground-breaking book, *The Case Against the Sexual Revolution*. In it she makes a compelling case for how sexual revolution that began in the 1960s, was spurred on by *Roe v. Wade* in the 70s, and glamorised by Hollywood in the 80s and 90s has ultimately led to the exploitation of women and then the #MeToo movement.<sup>10</sup>

The reality of “free love” is that it is never *free* and hardly ever *love*! One female blogger has noted how many women now feel:

The sexual revolution has given men the freedom to not commit, while 100 years ago if you got a woman pregnant both social norms and her family would oblige you (forcefully if needed) to marry her and provide. Now as a man you are free to abscond your duty to your own child. Once again it is not the UMC doing this because they are better able to plan pregnancy and better abilities to handle unexpected ones but poorer people who don't enjoy any of this luxury. This is so extreme that among older working class women “Where are all the good men?” is now becoming “Where are all the men?”<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Rachel Cooke, an ardent feminist, reviewed Louise Perry's book in her Guardian article and makes this point. <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2022/jun/06/the-case-against-the-sexual-revolution-by-louise-perry-review-an-act-of-insurrection-a-new-guide-to-sex-in-the-21st-century>

<sup>11</sup> ‘BurdensomeCount’ [https://www.reddit.com/r/PurplePillDebate/comments/f9zp5s/the\\_sexual\\_revolution\\_and\\_its\\_consequences\\_have/?rdt=62256](https://www.reddit.com/r/PurplePillDebate/comments/f9zp5s/the_sexual_revolution_and_its_consequences_have/?rdt=62256)

We have already introduced the Greek word *porneia* (pg. 31) which is translated into English as *sexual immorality* or *fornication*. In Matthew 5:32 Jesus distinguished *fornication* from *adultery*. In the introduction to this study series, we saw that the sin of fornication was sexual activity without being married to the other person. The sin of *adultery* on the other hand is the sin of a husband or wife having sex with a person other than their spouse.

1. If you met a Christian who claimed that they were “saved by grace” and therefore not under the Bible’s *laws* (against fornication), how might Romans 13:13 confront this person’s concept of Christian morality?
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2. According to First Corinthians 5:1, what kind of damage does a sexually immoral Christian do the witness of a local church?
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3. What should be the attitude of a Christian to the idea of “free love” (fornication) according to First Corinthians 6:18? (NB. 1Cor. 6:13)
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If anyone is considering accepting the lie that “try before you buy” applies trying sex with someone before marrying them, consider this advice: A Catholic priest, who was preparing a couple for marriage, had a word of caution and wisdom for the young groom-to-be in relation to his potential conduct with his fiancé. “If you have sex with her before you are married” the priest told him, “you are teaching her that it’s quite alright to have sex with a man she’s not married to!”

Amen.