

Moral Issues: Adultery

(Hebrews 13:4)

- Introduction:
1. Ills. A number of years ago Country Music singer, Randy Travis, sang a song called, "Reasons I Cheat." Here are some of the lyrics of that song:
"A wife too demanding, with no understanding of why I stay dead on my feet. A dimly lit tavern, a willing young woman are some of the reasons I cheat. A lady that knows me, affection she shows me and a smile so easy and sweet, are some of the reasons I cheat.
 2. Lest someone think I'm picking on Country music, a number of years ago, Paul Simon offered 50 ways to leave a relationship.
 3. Within the past decade, surveys have revealed that over 30% of marriages have had to deal with the sin of adultery.
 4. We have become desensitized to adultery.
 - a. It's portrayed in the songs we sing.
 - b. It's acted out on television and in the movies.
 - c. We don't seem to mind that our nation's leaders commit it.
 5. Let's take a look at what God's word says about adultery and how we can keep ourselves from it.

I. What God Says About Adultery

- A. Under the Old Testament Law, adulterers were to be put to death (Leviticus 20:10).
- B. Jesus forbids adultery (Matthew 5:27-28).
- C. The penalty for adultery under the law of Christ (1 Corinthians 6:9; Galatians 5:19-21; Hebrews 13:4).

II. The Deception of Adultery

- A. Adultery is full of empty promises: It promises pleasure, love, and fulfillment, but in the end it gives pain, suffering, and destruction.
- B. Adultery involves flattery and beauty which leads to destruction (Proverbs 5:1-18; 6:25-26; 7:16-23).
- C. The cost is greater than the benefit.
 1. Destroy a marriage, betray a spouse, hurt those you love, destroy another family all for a pursuit of a selfish fantasy.

III. How To Overcome Adultery

- A. Control your heart
 1. (Proverbs 4:23).
 2. (Matthew 5:28-29).
 3. (Proverbs 23:7).
- B. Don't Start Something, or Flirt With Someone Other Than Your Spouse.

1. Heed the advice of Paul (1 Timothy 5:1-2).
 2. (1 Corinthians 15:33).
 3. Adultery is not a sin we suddenly stumble into, but rather the result of a progression of bad choices.
 4. Listen to your spouse's advice.
- C. Don't Spend Time Alone With The Opposite Sex.
1. You would be surprised at how much adultery has sprung out of relationships established on the premise of "giving spiritual help."
 2. We warn our kids about being alone...it needs to apply to us as well.
 3. (Matthew 6:13).
 4. Emotional attachments with the opposite sex, which rival or surpass the attachment you have with your spouse are very dangerous.
- D. Find Love and Satisfaction at home with your own spouse.
1. It has often been said that a good defense is a good offense. This can be true in the marriage relationship as well.
 2. (1 Corinthians 7:2-5).
 3. (Proverbs 5:15-20).
- E. Remember That You Will Get Caught.
1. God always sees (Hebrews 4:13; Ecclesiastes 12:14; Number 32:23).
 2. In the vast majority of cases, you will be found out by your friends, your family, your children, your fellow Christians.
- F. Remember That The Way Of The Transgressor Is Hard
1. (Proverbs 13:15).
 2. Is it worth it?
 3. (Matthew 16:26).

- Conclusion:
1. To those who have suffered through the betrayal of adultery, you know all too well how devastating this sin can be.
 2. Adultery is one of those terrible sins whose pain and destruction strike twice. It has severe consequences both now and in eternity (Galatians 5:19-21).