

Word of God Ministry Church Under The Son

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Adultery

God created us as sexual beings for our good. The sexual relationship between Adam and Eve was given as a means to express their love for each other and for them to procreate. When they sinned, however, the purposes and desires for their sexuality became distorted. God's clear plan was that sexual relationships were to be only between a man and a woman, married to each other. God wants us to honor our marriage commitment for life.

Adultery is thought of as a sexual relationship with someone other than your spouse; but most physical or sexual affairs begin as emotional affairs, and unfaithfulness can happen even without a physical relationship. Jesus speaks emphatically about this in *Matthew 5:27, 28*: “*You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*”

Most people enter into unfaithful relationships and sexual sin through internet chat rooms and pornography. Unfaithfulness, however, can happen in far more subtle ways, as well. There are traps even in casual daily activities at work or in the community. When we neglect or compromise our marriage commitments, we open the door to unfaithfulness.

- Honoring Marriage

Hebrews 13:4 *“Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.*

God has established marriage as the proper context for a sexual relationship. When you have a sexual relationship with someone other than your spouse, you dishonor God and your marriage.

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Even though some marriage relationships struggle, adultery is never the answer. You honor God and your marriage when you live according to God's Word within your marriage relationship. That means that you love your spouse and put his or her needs above your own. *Philippians 2:3* says, "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself," You honor your marriage when you are mutually respectful and base your relationship on the foundation of a relationship with Jesus Christ.

- Causes Of Adultery

1 Peter 2:11 "Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,

One of the causes of adultery is simply your own sinful, selfish desires - fleshly lusts that war against your soul. The Apostle James wrote, "Each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed" (*James 1:14*).

You can be tempted by your own desires and that can lead to the choice to commit adultery. But unfaithfulness and adultery indicate deeper issues within a marriage. Relationship problems often occur because of unmet expectations and lives that are out of balance. Behind many marriage problems and the sin of adultery is a desire to have another person meet your needs rather than God. A relationship with Jesus Christ is the only thing that will truly satisfy the core needs of your soul - not a relationship with a spouse or a relationship outside of marriage. All human beings will fail you at some time, but you can trust God to be absolutely trustworthy and faithful. Your efforts to have other people fill that role reflect a distrust of God.

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- Consequences Of Adultery

Proverbs 6:26-35 ²⁶For by means of a harlot A man is reduced to a crust of bread; And an adulteress will prey upon his precious life. ²⁷Can a man take fire to his bosom, And his clothes not be burned? ²⁸Can one walk on hot coals, And his feet not be seared? ²⁹So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; Whoever touches her shall not be innocent. ³⁰People do not despise a thief If he steals to satisfy himself when he is starving. ³¹Yet when he is found, he must restore sevenfold; He may have to give up all the substance of his house. ³²Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; He who does so destroys his own soul. ³³Wounds and dishonor he will get, And his reproach will not be wiped away. ³⁴For jealousy is a husband's fury; Therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance. ³⁵He will accept no recompense, Nor will he be appeased though you give many gifts.

Society may treat adultery casually, but adultery has serious consequences. God always wants what is best for us - He knows us, and He established boundaries to protect us. When we rebel against those boundaries, we not only sin, but we also bring harm to ourselves and others.

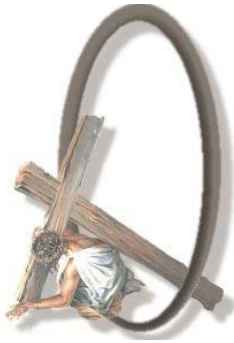
Adultery is dishonoring to your marriage. It also causes emotional damage - guilt, fear, anxiety, and depression, to name a few - and is disrespectful of your body. Physically, adultery can lead to many of the same diseases and problems as any sexual behavior outside the will of God. But spiritually, the sin of adultery damages your relationship with God.

God offers His complete forgiveness for you. If you have had an adulterous relationship, confess your sins, turn away from them (repent), and He will forgive them. You will still have to deal with significant consequences of your sin, but God will help you through those repercussions.

If you are struggling with adultery, pray for genuine repentance in your heart. Ask God to restore your marriage from the damage you've done, and ask the Pastor or a mature Christian (of the same sex) to counsel you in your marriage relationship. A wise Counselor can help you with confession and restoration with your spouse.

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“Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:18, 19).

God will bring you a new perspective as you yield to Him, making it possible for Him to mend your life and help you reach a long-term solution in your marriage.

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