

ADULTERY IS A HEINOUS CRIME

Job 31:11

Introduction:

1. *"For this (adultery) is an heinous crime; it is an iniquity to be punished by the Judges"* (Job 31:11)
2. Job had a very great abhorrence of the sin of adultery.
 - (1) He was careful not to offer any injury to his neighbor's marriage bed (Job 31:9).
 - (2) He did not covet his neighbor's wife (Job 31:1,9).
 - (3) His heart was not deceived by a woman (Job. 31:9).
 1. He was not enticed, or allured unto a woman.
 - (4) He never laid wait at his neighbor's door to get an opportunity to lead his neighbor's wife astray in the act of adultery in his neighbor's absence (Job 24:15).
 - (5) He said adultery is a fire that consumes to destruction (Job 31:12).
3. Let us define our terms:
 - (1) "ADULTERY": Denotes one who has unlawful sexual intercourse with the spouse of another.
 - (2) "HEINOUS": A wicked deed; wickedness.
 - (3) "CRIME": A crime is a transgression against the public right, serious offence against the law; it is an offence against God and man.
 1. The crime (or sin) of adultery subverts the family relationship upon which God erects the entire fabric of society.
 2. Adultery is gangrene in society, eating out its very heart.
 3. It undermines the true welfare of a people in any community or nation.
 4. It is fatal to the sanctity of the home--sanctity on which the very life of the nation depends.

4. THIS LESSON IS DESIGNED TO PREVENT ADULTERY.

- (1) It is to picture to you how terrible this SIN is.

I. ADULTERY IS UNFAITHFULNESS -- Mal. 2:14

1. In marriage the husband and wife have VOWED to BE TRUE and FAITHFUL to one another.
2. They have entered into a COVENANT with each other.
 - (1) *"Yet is she thy companion, the wife of thy covenant."* (Mal. 2:14).
 - (2) A Covenant signifies a mutual understanding between two or more, each binding himself to fulfill obligations (Vine).
 - (3) The parties to a covenant obligate themselves to carry out their respective commitments.
 1. SOME MUTUAL DUTIES OF THE COVENANT:
 - (1) Companionship (Gen. 2:18; Mal. 2:14).
 - (2) The duty of marriage (Ex. 21:10; I Cor. 7:3-5).
 - (3) Love each other (Eph. 5:25; Tit. 2:4).
 - (4) Jealously guard each other's purity (Eph. 5:26-27; Titus 2:4-5).
 - (5) Division of labor (Tit. 2:4-5; I Tim. 5:8).
 - (6) To seek to understand each other (I Pet. 5:7).
3. God has WITNESSED this covenant (Mal. 2:14).
4. God has JOINED them together in ONE FLESH (Matt. 19:5-6-- Yoked them together).
5. God has BOUND ("Put under obligation, (namely, to wit) of law"-- Thayer, 131 for life)
 - (1) (Rom. 7:2; I Cor. 7:39).
6. Adultery is a BREACH of the marriage covenant, a breaking of a most solemn promise.
 - (1) The writer of Proverbs said "the strange woman" *"forgetteth the covenant of her God"*
 - (2) (Prov. 2:17).
7. Adultery is unfaithfulness to one's companion (Mal. 2:14).
 - (1) The tender relationship of companions has been cruelly violated.
 - (2) This unfaithfulness sends the innocent party in tears, weeping to God in prayer (Mal. 2:13).

(3) It is a terrible thing to send one's companion weeping in prayer to God because of adultery
(1) (I Pet. 3:7; I Thess. 4:6).

8. Adultery is unfaithfulness to God (Gen. 39:9).. "*How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?*"
9. Unfaithfulness destroys trust and love; without fidelity, love and trust cannot exist.

II. ADULTERY IS CRUELTY:

1. Adultery is one of the parents of cruelty (Prov. 5:9).
2. "Cruel" means to give pain and grief.
3. Adultery is much pain and grief to all that are touched by it.
4. Can you think of any greater cruelty in this life than knowing your Bosom Companion has violated your marriage bed by being "ravished" with another (Heb. 13:4).
5. Adultery produces jealousy and anger in the heart of the offended. (Prov. 6:34-35).
(1) Jealousy in a husband or wife is the forceful assertion of an exclusive right.
6. Adultery destroys hopes and dreams.
7. The cruelty that little children suffer because of adultery.
8. A grievous and irreparable wrong is done to another.
9. For the sake of SELFISH PLEASURE a home is torn to pieces!

III. ADULTERY BRINGS SELF-REPROACH:

1. The man who seduces his neighbor's wife is NOT INNOCENT! (Prov. 6:29)
(1) First, he must seduce her, taking advantage of her own weakness to satisfy his unlawful desire.
(2) He robs her of her virtue...Prov. 12:4--"*A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: "...."Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies"* (Prov. 31:10).
2. He is NOT INNOCENT IN HIS OWN CONSCIENCE:
(1) David, after he sinned with Bathsheba, said: "*My sin is ever before me.*" (Psa. 51:3)
(2) One who commits adultery feels his guilt all the time.
(3) Adultery is a sin that DESTROYS PEACE OF MIND.
3. People who think they can commit adultery without destroying all that is good in their life just do not understand the sin and its nature!

IV. ADULTERY CORRUPTS THE CHARACTER:

1. "Character" is MORAL VIGOR, FIRMNESS, SELF-DISCIPLINE.
2. Adultery completely destroys the moral qualities of an individual.
3. Let us look at a Bible description of an adulterous person:
 - (1) They will flatter and lie (Prov. 7:15, 21; 2:16).
 - (2) "Loud and stubborn" (Prov. 7:11) "cast off restraint"; rebellious.
 - (3) She dresses to ENTICE (Prov. 7:10; 6:25).
 - (4) She flirts with her eyes (Prov. 6:25.. "wanton eyes" Isa. 3:16).
 - (5) Walk "mincing as they go" (Isa. 3:16... tripping along).
 - (6) The adulterer waits at his neighbor's door for opportunity to take advantage of his wife
 1. (Job. 31:9; 24:15; 2 Pet. 2:14).
 - (7) The adulterer waits until twilight so he will not be recognized.
 1. (Job 24:15; Prov. 7:6-7).

V. ADULTERY BRINGS SHAME TO ONE'S LIFE:

1. Prov. 6:33: "*A wound and dishonor shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away.*"
2. This stain upon one's character will follow him throughout life.
3. One GIVE HIS HONOR in this sin (Prov. 5:9).

VI. THE SIN OF ADULTERY BRINGS IMPOVERISHMENT:

1. Prov. 6:26: *"For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life."*
2. *"But he that keepeth company with harlots spendeth his substance".* (Prov. 29:3)
3. Job said, *"For it (adultery) is a fire that consumeth to destruction, and would root out all mine increase."* (Job 31:12)
4. Men, by committing adultery, lose:
 - (1) Their families
 - (2) Their houses they live in
 - (3) Their money
 - (4) Their jobs
 - (5) Their good names
5. Many a man and woman in this world today are without anything because of adultery.

VII. ADULTERY IS A FIRE THAT CONSUMETH TO DESTRUCTION:

1. Job 31:12
2. Fire is a death power:
 - (1) It is destructive..it consumes and destroys.
 - (2) It spreads.
 - (3) It leaves nothing but ashes.
3. Adultery is gangrene in society, eating out its very heart.
4. Adultery undermines the true welfare of a people in a nation.
5. Adultery destroys:
 - (1) The institution of marriage
 - (2) Nations
 - (3) The church, and
 - (4) All that is good!
6. Adultery brings GOD'S WRATH upon man (I Thess. 4:6; Col. 3:5-6)
7. Job said that adultery *"would root out all mine increase"* (Job. 31:12)
 - (1) Many men have to keep up two families because of adultery!

VIII. THINGS ADULTERY DESTROYS:

1. The Soul (I Cor. 6:18; Prov. 6:32).
2. Physical health (Prov. 5:11; Rom. 1:27).
3. One's fellowship with God if he is a Christian (Psa. 51:12).
4. The Home (Matt. 19:9).
5. The Nation (Prov. 14:34); Gen. 18:20).
6. Happiness
7. The Reputation (Prov. 6:33).
8. Purity of mind and body...

IX. THE PENALTIES OF CONJUGAL UNFAITHFULNESS:

1. REMORSE .Prov. 5:11...
 - (1) *"And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and body are consumed"...*(mental suffering).
 - (2) David...*"My sin is ever before me"...*(Psa. 51:3).
 - (3) Prov. 5:12: *"And say, how have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof."*
2. DISEASE OF THE BODY:
 - (1) Prov. 5:11: *"Thy flesh and body are consumed".*
 - (2) Rom. 1:27

3. IMPOVERISHMENT:

(1) Prov. 5:10: *"Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labours be in the house of a stranger:"*

4. DISHONOR:

(1) *"A wound and dishonor shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away"...*Prov. 6:33

5. SPIRITUAL DEATH:

(1) Prov. 6:32

6. IT STIRS UP JEALOUSY AND ANGER:

(1) *"For jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance".*
..Prov. 6:34

7. IT IS THE ONLY GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE:

(1) Matt. 19:9

8. THE LORD IS THE AVENGER OF THIS SIN:

(1) I Thess. 4:6

X. DIVINE WARNINGS TO STAY AWAY FROM THE TEMPTATION OF ADULTERY:

1. Prov. 6:24: *"To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman"...*
2. Prov. 6:25: *"Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids."*
3. Prov. 7:25: *"Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths."*
4. Prov. 5:8: *"Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house."*
5. I Cor. 6:18: *"Flee fornication."*

Conclusion:

1. WHY WILL MEN RESORT TO SHAMEFUL LUST WHEN THEY CAN BE BLESSED WITH LAWFUL AND HONORABLE LOVE? Prov. 5:15-19
2. I hope that this lesson has given you strength to withstand the temptations of this heinous sin.....