

DON'T BECOME INFATUATED WITH ANOTHER'S COMPANION

By Donald Townsley

Many men and women in our society today forget their marriage vows and think they have "fallen in love" with the companion of someone else. It is not uncommon for this to happen even among people who are children of God!

This generally happens when two couples are together day after day to the exclusion of any other friends; when they spend every leisure hour together; and even take vacations together. This seemingly innocent friendship and close relationship breeds familiarity which can lead to questionable and compromising situations. The wife may give the male friend admittance into her home when her husband is not there (when she should just courteously invite him to return when her husband is there). Many times this seemingly harmless visit with a male friend alone leads to familiar and intimate conversation and "letting the hair down", which can lead to the entertaining of lascivious and lustful thoughts. In time, because too much familiarity has been permitted to develop between the couples, liberties are taken that can only lead to one end -- and illicit affair! When this sinful affair has taken place (because no one took precaution by heeding the inspired warning to "*flee fornication*" --I Cor. 6:18, many times two marriages are destroyed!

All who are aware of what is going on today have seen what I have just described happen over and over! This all happened because someone became too familiar with and infatuated by another's companion! Paul said, "*Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband*" (I Cor. 7:2). Fornication is not *avoided* by becoming infatuated with another's companion, it is *committed*!

HOW TO AVOID THE SITUATION JUST DESCRIBED

1. Both husband and wife must remember that they are bound to each other for life (I Cor. 7:39; Rom. 7:2).
2. They must remember that they have chosen each other for the rest of their lives, and their *aim* must be to please the one chosen (I Cor. 7: 3 - 4). They have no right to search for another to please them (Matt. 19: 5 - 6).
3. They must remember that they are to give love and devotion to each other only, not to someone else (Eph. 5:25, 28 - 29; Titus 2: 4 - 5)
4. They must remember that they are to render "*due benevolence*" (I Cor. 7: 3 -4) or sexual love (Prov. 5:19) to each other.
5. They must find pleasure and joy in each other, not in another (Prov. 5:18 --"*Rejoice with the wife of thy youth*" KJV; "*Rejoice in the wife of thy youth*" ASV. From this verse we see that the sphere (or range) of pleasure and joy with the opposite sex is *with* or *in* one's companion.
6. They must remember to always express with the lips the affection in the heart (Song of Solomon 1: 15 - 16; 4: 1 - 7).
7. The wife must always remember that she is her husband's alone, and is inaccessible to any who would disturb her pure heart and violate the sanctity of her pure body (Song of Solomon 4:12).

8. The husband must be determined to be satisfied with his wife *only* (Prov. 5:15).
9. They must grow up (be mature) so they will not fall prey to someone's flattering words (Prov. 6: 24 - 26; 7: 9 - 27).
10. They must determine to be modest and discreet in their relationships with other couples (Titus 2:5).
11. They must remember never to become too "thick" with just one couple because it can lead to many sorrows. Such a relationship is always unhealthy for a marriage.
12. They must always avoid questionable and compromising situations of being alone with the companion of someone else.
13. They must determine to always "*flee fornication*" (I Cor. 6:18).
14. They must determine *not* to commit such wickedness against God (Gen. 39:9).

Brethren, if we will all follow these scriptural truths we will be happy and stay out of trouble; no one will become infatuated with his neighbor's wife; no one will defile his neighbor's bed; and our marriages will be "*honourable in all, and the bed undefiled:*" (Heb. 13:4).

(Taken from "The Hebron Herald", Feb. 1984)