

## Adultery, It's a Crime!

Job 31:11

### I. INTRODUCTION: I

- I. 2 We live in a very schizophrenic society especially as it concerns adultery; for example, about 80% of Americans “believe extramarital sex is always wrong” (source: *General Social Survey*). Yet other statistics paint a very different picture.
  - A. Two-thirds of couples married in 2012 lived together for more than two years before being married (*The Atlantic Monthly*, March 20, 2014).
  - B. In 2012 48% of women cohabited; only 40% of cohabiting couples marry (source: *Huffington Post*).
    - (1) This cohabitation rate has increased nearly 900% over the past 50 years.
    - (2) U.S. census data (2012) showed 7.8 million couples were cohabiting.
    - (3) 3 Cohabitation is increasingly prevalent in the United States. The share of 30- to 44-year-olds living as unmarried couples has more than doubled since the mid-1990s (*Pew Research Center*).
    - (4) According to a recent Gallup poll only 27% disapproved of cohabitation (see I. above).
  - C. According to U.S. Census Bureau data four in ten new marriages include at least one partner who had been previously married, while two in ten new marriages were between people who both had been previously married (*Pew Research Center*).
  - D. The same data indicates almost 42 million adults in the U.S. have been married more than once, triple the number since 1960 (*Pew Research Center*).
  - E. In 2012, 8% of the newly married have been married three times or more (*Pew Research Center*).
2. 4 This situation is having a huge effect on children:
  - A. According to the CDC, 40.6% of children born to unmarried women (72.2% among blacks, 53.5% for Hispanics, 29.4% for whites)(source: *Centers For Disease Control and Prevention*).
  - B. Less than half (46%) of U.S. kids younger than 18 years of age are living in a home with two married heterosexual parents in their first marriage (73% in 1960) (*Pew Research Center*).
  - C. One of the largest shifts in family structure is this: 34% of children today are living with an unmarried parent—up from just 9% in 1960 (*Pew Research Center*).
3. Almost all of these miserable statistics can be traced back to the sin of adultery!
  - A. The vast majority of Americans are guilty of adultery!
  - B. \*\* Yet a recent Gallup poll indicated 80% of Americans believe it is “always wrong” for “a married person to have sexual relations with someone other than their marriage partner.”
4. 5 Is America schizophrenic when it comes to adultery? Absolutely!
5. On the contrary, God’s word is not schizophrenic when it comes to adultery.
  - A. Long ago Job said: “*For this [adultery] is an heinous crime; yea, it is an iniquity to be punished by the judges.*” (Job 31:11)
  - B. Despite American’s attitudes and behaviors, adultery remains a “*heinous crime*” and sadly a crime that’s becoming more and more common in our society, unfortunately even among Christians.
  - C. Adultery is a crime because it is an offense against both God and man.
  - D. Statistics suggest that by the age of 40, 50-65% of husbands and 45-55% of wives will have engaged in at least one adulterous relationship.
  - E. 6 Adultery has affected many Christians:

- (1) I know of several prominent gospel preachers who cheated on their wives and ultimately divorced; the same is true for many “typical” Christians.
  - (2) The MDR issue is tearing up the church in many places as brethren struggle with adultery, divorce and remarriage.
  - (3) Furthermore, how many have not “cheated” on their spouse through a rendezvous at a motel, but nonetheless are guilty of adultery because they live in an adulterous marriage? Matt. 19:9
  - (4) How many brethren live in adulterous marriages? Can’t throw a rock without hitting one!
  - (5) How many are flirting with adultery through internet pornography? (\$80,000)
6. “What saith the scriptures?” How is adultery a crime?

## II. DISCUSSION:

### 1. **7** Adultery is cruel:

A. Cruelty is the intentional infliction of pain and grief to another.

- (1) What could be crueler than to know the companion who vowed to be faithful to you alone has violated your marriage bed? (**Heb. 13:4:** *“Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”*)
  - (2) The wise man said adultery produces jealousy and anger in the heart of the offended that cannot be assuaged (**Prov. 6:34-35:** *“For jealousy is a husband’s fury; therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance. 35 He will accept no recompense, nor will he be appeased though you give many gifts.”*).
- B. It is a sin that destroys hopes and dreams and brings untold suffering to everyone involved.
- (1) There could be no greater cruelty we could perpetrate upon our spouse who we’ve vowed to “love and cherish,” “forsaking all others” and “keeping yourself unto her, for so long as you both shall live.”
  - (2) There could be no greater cruelty we could perpetrate upon our children than to be unfaithful to their mother who we’ve vowed to “love...just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her” (Eph. 5:25).

### 2. **8** Adultery brings self-reproach:

- A. The wise man said, “So he that goeth in to his neighbour’s wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.” (Prov. 6:29)
- B. What could be more reproachful than causing another to sin and robbing them of their virtue to satisfy one’s own selfish lusts? **Matt. 18:6-7:** *“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. 7 Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!”*
- C. Is it any wonder David said his “sin” was “ever before” him (Psa. 51:3). Adultery is such a “heinous crime” against God and man that one who commits it cannot get it off his/her mind!

### 3. **9** Adultery brings shame to one’s life:

- A. What a stain adultery brings to one’s character, for “A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away.” (Prov. 6:33)
- B. One who commits adultery brings shame upon their name, for adulterers “give thine honour unto others” (Prov. 5:9).

C. Committing adultery brings shame upon oneself, one's family, one's friends, and the church (1 Cor. 5:1; 2 Pet. 2:2). You give away your honor and virtue.

D. Why would any sane person even contemplate committing adultery?

4. **10** Adultery corrupts one's character:

A. Adultery completely destroys one's moral qualities.

(1) For example, the Bible describes an adulterous person as a flatter and liar (**Prov. 7:21**: "With her enticing speech she caused him to yield, with her flattering lips she seduced him."; **Prov. 2:16**: "To deliver you from the immoral woman, from the seductress who flatters with her words,").

(2) The Bible describes an adulterous person as loud and rebellious (**Prov. 7:11**: "She was loud and rebellious, her feet would not stay at home.").

(3) The Bible describes an adulterer as a covenant breaker (**Prov. 2:17**: "Who forsakes the companion of her youth, and forgets the covenant of her God."), as one who takes advantage of others (**Job 31:9**: "...I have lurked at my neighbor's door"), as one who is a "sneak" (**Job 24:15**: "The eye of the adulterer waits for the twilight, saying, 'No eye will see me'; and he disguises his face."; "back door man").

B. Don't be deceived! Adultery destroys all who flirt with it, "Yea, many strong men have been slain by her" (Prov. 7:26).

5. **11** Adultery brings impoverishment:

A. "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." (Prov. 6:26)

B. "But a companion of harlots wastes his wealth." (Prov. 29:3)

C. Many a man/woman has paid a high price! Lost their family, their wealth, their jobs, their good name, and peace of mind because of adultery.

D. Ultimately, the greatest loss of all will be one's soul, for "he that doeth it [adultery] destroyeth his own soul." (Prov. 6:32)

**III. CONCLUSION: 12**

A. Despite the stat (80% in poll; "believe extramarital sex is always wrong"); we live in a society that condones adultery, glorifies it, encourages it, and ignores its great destructive power (e.g., movies, TV shows, novels).

B. We live in a society filled with abundant opportunities to commit this "heinous crime."

C. Adultery offers excitement and pleasure, but delivers heartache, sorrow, and destruction.

D. Why resort to shameful lust when God's way blesses us with lawful, honorable, and fulfilling love?

(1) The wise man describes the lawful and honorable love between a husband a wife and all the God-approved pleasures such brings (**Prov. 5:15-23**; **Heb. 13:4**: "Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.").

(2) True satisfaction and happiness comes only by following God's way and "drink water from [our] own cistern," "rejoice with the wife of [our] youth," and allow only "her breasts [to] satisfy you at all times."

E. Don't be fooled by adultery! We can no more commit this "heinous crime" and not suffer its dire consequences than "a man take fire to his bosom, and his clothes not be burned" (Prov. 6:27)