

## Trends

Some depressing statistics on adultery in America:

- ☛ 30-60% of all married people engage in adultery at some point in their marriage.
- ☛ 2-3% of all children are the product of infidelity.
- ☛ Men are more likely to cheat than women.
- ☛ Infidelity has steadily risen as more women enter the work force.
- ☛ Almost all married people admit to sexual fantasies with non-mates.

—via TruthAboutDeception

**Proverbs 6:32-33:** “Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; He who does so destroys his own soul. 33 Wounds and dishonor he will get, And his reproach will not be wiped away.”

**Matthew 5:27-28:** “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

## News & Notes

Please pray for those mentioned in the announcements after services and others listed on the bulletin board in the foyer of the church building.

Pray for Al Cook's family. Recently Al's uncle Theodus passed away. Let's keep the Cook family in our prayers.

Please pray for Dawne. She is scheduled for eye surgery in mid-August. The doctors say it is a simple procedure. But parents are concerned when their child and the words “eye” and “surgery” appear in the same sentence!

Please pray for Alan Jones. Alan's deep brain stimulation treatment to relieve severe facial pain was unsuccessful. He continues to suffer from his condition. Please pray for him and his family.

Please keep sisters Virginia Brown and Wilma Cardwell in your prayers. Their faithfulness sets such a good example and gives encouragement to all! Ditto for Al (our Barnabas!).

Pray for Eric and Whitney Holk and congratulations on their recent marriage!

Pray for the all of our students: elementary, secondary and college. Our young people will be starting a new school year very shortly.

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**Times of Service:** Bible Study, Sunday 9:30 AM and Wednesday 7:00 PM; Worship, Sunday 10:30 AM and 5:00 PM

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# Words of Life

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“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

John 6:68



**Adultery, It's a Crime!**

Craig Thomas

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) Adultery remains a “heinous crime” and sadly a crime that’s more and more common in our society, even among Christians. Adultery is a crime because it is an offense against both God and man. Statistics suggest by the age of 40, 50-65% of husbands and 45-55% of wives will have engaged in at least one adulterous relationship.

1) **Adultery is cruel.** Cruelty intentionally inflicts pain and grief to another. What’s more cruel than knowing the companion who vowed to be faithful to you alone has violated your marriage bed? (Heb. 13:4) Adultery produces jealousy and anger in the heart of the offended that cannot be assuaged (Prov. 6:34-35). It’s a sin that destroys hopes and dreams and brings untold suffering to everyone involved. There is no greater cruelty we could perpetrate upon our children than to be unfaithful to their mother who we’ve vowed to “love and cherish,” “forsaking all others...keeping yourself unto her, for so long as you both shall live.”

2) **Adultery brings self-reproach.** The wise man said, “So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.” (Prov. 6:29)

“Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”

Hebrews 13:4

What could be more reproachful than causing another to sin and rob them of their virtue to satisfy one’s own selfish lusts? No 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) **Adultery brings shame to one’s life.** 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) One who commits adultery brings shame upon their name, for adulterers “give thine honour unto others” (Prov. 5:9). Committing adultery brings shame upon oneself, one’s family, one’s friends, and the church (1 Cor. 5:1). Would a sane man even contemplate it?

4) **Adultery corrupts one’s character.** Adultery destroys one’s moral qualities. An adulterer is a flatter and liar (Prov. 7:21; 2:16), is loud and rebellious (Prov. 7:11), is a covenant breaker (Prov. 2:16), is one who takes advantage of others (Job 31:9), is one who is a “sneak” (Job 24:15). Don’t be deceived! Adultery destroys all who flirt with it, “*Yea, many strong men have been slain by her*” (Prov. 7:26).

5) **Adultery brings impoverishment.** “*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; cf. 29:3) Many a man/woman has lost family, wealth, jobs, and their good name because of adultery. And ultimately, the greatest loss of all will be one’s soul, for “*he that doeth it [adultery] destroyeth his own soul.*” (Prov. 6:32)

Our society glorifies adultery, condones it, encourages it, and ignores its destructive power. Our society offers ample opportunities to commit this “*heinous crime.*” Adultery promises excitement and pleasure, but delivers heartache, sorrow, and destruction. Why resort to shameful lust when God blesses us with lawful, honorable, and fulfilling love? The wise man describes this type of love between a husband a wife and all the God-approved pleasure it brings (Prov. 5:15-19). True satisfaction and happiness comes only when we follow 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.*” 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).

### **Gospel of Guilt or of Grace?**

Larry Hafley

Liberals, regurgitating what they have eaten from denominational troughs, say they are serving a gospel of grace and not a “gospel of guilt.” “For too long,” they piously tell us, “our 19th century restoration heritage has turned off people with a gospel of guilt. “We should,” they graciously inform us, “deliver a message of mercy, a gospel of grace, not a gospel of guilt.”

Is their admonition one of grace or of guilt? When they say we have preached a gospel of guilt rather than of grace, do they not mean to make us feel guilty for having done so? In order to correct us, they must make us see our alleged guilt in order to lead us to their concept of preaching grace. See the irony in that? That is all any gospel preacher has ever done. First, he makes men see their guilt, then he shows them how they

can be forgiven through grace (Eph. 2:1- 9). The liberal condemns that approach as a gospel of guilt and not of grace; yet, he uses the same tactic (convict of guilt--lead to grace) to tell us that we are preaching guilt and not grace!

If there were no guilt, there would be no need of grace. The declaration of grace has no appeal to one who has no sense of the condemnation of guilt. To preach grace without showing guilt is as useless as demanding thanksgiving from one who has been shown no blessing.

The revelation of the gospel of grace began with the enunciation of the gospel of guilt. “*Jesus...ye have taken, and...have crucified and slain...God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ*” (Acts 2:22-36). Further, “*Ye...killed the Prince of life*” (Acts 3:13-15). In view of that guilt, “*Men and brethren, what shall we do?*” Now comes the rest of the gospel of grace, “*Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out*” (Acts 2:38; 3:19).

The apostles preached the gospel of grace, but they also preached what liberals disdain as the gospel of guilt, and their hearers felt it—“*ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us*” (Acts 5:28). Yes, indeed, that was their intention and purpose—“*Jesus...ye slew and hanged on a tree*” (Acts 5:30)! That’s what liberals call the “gospel of guilt.” Next, if you will, there follows the gospel of grace, “*Him hath God exalted...to be a Prince and a Savior, for to give repentance...and forgiveness of sins*” (Acts 5:31; Cf. Acts 26:18, 20).

“Felix trembled” after hearing Paul preach “the gospel of the grace of God” (Acts 24:25; Cf. 20:24). If Felix did not know his guilt, why did he tremble at the “*judgment to come*”?

*“Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Men and brethren, what shall we do?’”*

Acts 2:37

It was not an illusory, false form of grace that caused the apostles to be seen as the filth and offscouring of the world. It was not an imaginary gospel of grace without guilt that sent Jesus to the cross; it was not a gospel devoid of guilt that burned and branded the marks of the Lord Jesus into the body of Paul (Gal. 6:17). It was precisely because they preached the gospel of grace, which includes the knowledge of guilt, that they were defamed and disgraced.

The grace of God “*bringeth salvation*” (Titus 2:11-14). But salvation from what? Can anyone answer that question without informing me of my guilt? If not, let no one charge us with preaching a gospel of guilt rather than the gospel of grace.