

Adultery (Revisited) and Pornography

Chapter 31

I. Adultery

A. Why is adultery wrong?

1. God says so: Exodus 20:14 "**You shall not commit adultery.**"
2. It wrongly pictures unfaithfulness in the relationship between God and his people.
 - a. Marriage is a picture of the relationship between Christ and the church: Eph. 5:31-32
 - b. Therefore, adultery pictures Christ being unfaithful to his people, abandoning them, not keeping his covenant with them.
 - c. Or it pictures the church worshiping other gods, being unfaithful to Christ.
3. It wrongly intrudes another person into the "one flesh" (Gen. 2:24; Eph. 5:31) relationship of marriage
4. It destroys trust within a marriage (because of most serious violation of marriage promise)
5. It often leads to children being born without two parents to raise them (or else to abortion to end an unwanted pregnancy)
6. It frequently destroys a person's life.

B. How does adultery happen? (often begins with an "innocent" friendship):

C. What are some helpful safeguards against adultery? ("boundaries"):

1. Examples: not being alone w/person of opposite sex, keeping office door open, taking care in travel w/ co-workers. (company policies)
2. Avoid situations that may lead to adultery, or that give appearance of inappropriate behavior.
4. Be aware of danger signs

D. The Bible sets an even higher standard: A desire to commit adultery is also wrong in God's sight

1. Exodus 20:17: "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

2. Prov. 6:25: “do not desire her beauty in your heart” (someone who is not your wife)
3. Jesus understood the deeper intention of the seventh commandment, Matthew 5:27-28 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.
4. Wrongful actions begin in the heart.
5. God looks on the heart:
6. God’s blessing on our lives and ministries depends on our maintaining purity of heart.

II. Pornography

- A. In the Bible, at least one example of a relationship between pictures and sinful actions:

Ezekiel 23:14-17 (Oholibah) But she carried her whoring further. She saw men portrayed on the wall, the images of the Chaldeans portrayed in vermilion, 15 wearing belts on their waists, with flowing turbans on their heads, all of them having the appearance of officers, a likeness of Babylonians whose native land was Chaldea. 16 When she saw them, she lusted after them and sent messengers to them in Chaldea. 17 And the Babylonians came to her into the bed of love, and they defiled her with their whoring lust. And after she was defiled by them, she turned from them in disgust.

- B. Purity of heart requires us to discipline our eyes, what we look at: Job 31:1-2
- C. Looking at pornography violates Jesus’ command in Matt. 5:27-2
- D. Pornography attracts your affections and desires outside your marriage and away from your spouse.
 1. Robs affection that should only be for your spouse.
 2. Turns your heart and desire from your spouse.
 3. It will hinder your sexual relationship within marriage (memories that last for a long time; also, false expectations, often wrongful expectations, ideas).
 4. Your spouse will instinctively sense some uncleanness, some impurity in your relationship even if she/he does not discover any facts. (Sometimes people will sense this as well!).
 5. If your spouse does discover factual proof, it will be devastating to her/him..

- E. Pornography is a trap that draws people deeper and deeper and never satisfies (a deception of the enemy to destroy us).
- F. It leads to other sins.
- G. Excuses, rationalizations are frequent.
 - 1. "It's only a picture"
 - 2. "I'm just curious"
 - 3. "It's not really bad stuff" ask Matt. 5:28 question: why are you looking?
- H. The great damage of pornography today.
 - 1. Devastation to the marriage.
 - 2. Addiction.
 - a. Great loss in their lives because of destructive effect on any sexual relationship in present or future marriages.
 - b. Can lead many to other sins
 - c. Will lead to alienation from God, unwillingness to seek God because of secret guilt.
 - d. A time bomb ticking away in our nation, or a cancer eating away at its soul.
- I. This is often an "addiction" that cannot be overcome without help from someone else.
- J. Contributors to the problem: The legal system in our country.
- K. Things to do to protect your home and community
 - 1. Internet filter on computer
 - 2. Promote filters at local library (you can run for library board!)
 - 3. Community pressure and aggressive prosecution.