

ADULTERY

Clearly much of the hatred, violence, murder and other crimes against society are a direct result of failed marriages due to adultery and sexual perversion. Yet most people who profess to believe in and follow the teachings of the Bible claim that they are not required to strictly practice the Ten Commandments or any of the other 613 plus laws codified in the Bible that are put there to govern human behavior. Few seem to realize that the miserable condition that the world's societies find themselves in today is a direct result of not practicing these laws.

But what does the Bible actually say about people who commit adultery and sexual perversion and the punishment that is to be applied for these violations of God's law? If you are a person who professes to follow Jesus Christ and believes that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, you might want to pay careful attention to the information contained in this broadcast; because, what the Bible actually says about premarital and extra-marital sex is not what is commonly taught today.

At the very beginning of God's plan for his human creation he brought Eve to Adam and joined them together in what was expected a permanent relationship. The Creator God said of the marital relationship:

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (Gen.2:24 NIV).

God designed marriage to be a harmonious relationship between a man and a woman. When God's laws, precepts, and principles concerning the marital relationship are adhered to, marriage between a man and a woman becomes a delightful and fulfilling experience. However, when God's instructions concerning marriage are violated the opposite result will be forthcoming.

The Seventh Commandment

The seventh commandment simply says, "You shall not commit adultery" This commandment forbids

the pollution of the marriage relationship through unlawful sexual activity which results in the breaking of the marital agreement between a man and a woman.

According to God's law, adultery is a capital crime and is punishable by death. The majority of people, including most people who profess to believe in the teachings of the Bible, feel that the application of the death penalty for adultery is far too harsh a punishment. But is it too harsh, or does the punishment fit this crime against one's mate, against one's family, and against society?

The biblical record clearly shows that the Sovereign God and his son the Savior of humanity do not think that this punishment is too harsh. Moreover, it is a fact that many non-biblically based societies of the past and the present share this same view concerning sexual infidelity in a marriage.

Beginning with Adam and Eve, it was a sin to commit adultery. And sin is defined in the Bible as the violation of God's law. The apostle Paul summarize the penalty for sin by saying, "The wages if sin is death"

The Bible reveals that hundreds of years before God gave the seventh commandment to the tribes of Israel, people clearly understood that sexual infidelity was a serious crime against one's mate, one's family, and society.

The biblical accounts of king Abimelech concerning Abraham's wife Sarah and Joseph's encounter with Potiphar's wife show that it was common knowledge that adultery was a violation of God's law and that it was a crime of great magnitude.

During Christ time, John the Baptist told Herod Antipas that it was unlawful for him to have Herodius, his brother Philip's wife (Matt.14:4), because according to God's law it was forbidden for a man to marry the divorced wife of his living brother. However, today men and women who profess to believe the teachings of the Bible break this law with impunity, as if it did not exist. Moreover, the majority of men and women in Israelitish nations today, reject God's laws precepts,

and principles concerning marriage as being archaic and out of touch with a modern lifestyle.

But what did Jesus Christ who was the Creator God before he came to earth have to say about marriage, adultery, and divorce? When Jesus came to earth, he expanded the definition of adultery past the letter of the law into the spirit of the law, just as the prophet Isaiah said he would.

Jesus said concerning the seventh commandment:

"You have heard that it was said, You shall not commit adultery: But I say to you, That whoever looks on a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart."

The heart is one's mind. It is the very center of one's being and the place where thoughts are formulated and refined in order to mold one's character and direct one's actions.

Lust begins in the mind. Acts forbidden by God that are lived out in one's mind are sin, even though no overt physical act is committed (Jms.1:13-15). Anyone who lusts after someone else's wife is committing adultery. Therefore, the best defense committing against adultery is loyalty to one's own spouse and genuine love and respect for other people and a fervent desire to live a righteous lifestyle.

The violation of the seventh commandment is especially destructive, because this sin not only has an adverse effect on marital partners, it normally always has an adverse effect on many innocent people. This is why in the midst of dealing with this subject Jesus said:

"If your right eye offends you, pluck it out, and cast it from you: for it is profitable for you that one of your members should perish, so that your whole body should not be cast into the fire. And if your right hand offends you, cut it off, and cast it from you: for it is profitable for you that one of your members should perish, so that your whole body should not be cast into the fire." Matt 5:27-30.

How serious is adultery? Serious enough that if a person does not want to die the second death in the Lake of Fire from which there is no return, a person should do everything in their power to avoid the sin of adultery.

Jesus said concerning marriage and divorce, "It has been said, Whoever puts away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: But I say to you, That whoever puts away his wife, except or for the cause of fornication, causes her to commit adultery: and whoever marries her commits adultery." Matt 5:31-32

What Jesus told these people was his and his Heavenly Father's thinking concerning divorce and remarriage, and the ramifications of an unlawful divorce and remarriage. An unlawful divorce according to Jesus compounded an already bad situation with the prospect of causing the divorced wife to commit adultery and the one marrying her to commit adultery which is a capital crime punishable by death.

Today, the exchange of mates and multiple divorces and remarriages are so common that it is seldom thought of as anything out of the ordinary. However, God's law concerning marriage and adultery has not changed. Only people's perception of his law has changed. Moreover, the penalty for adultery has not changed, people just deny that there is a penalty.

The Pharisees asked Jesus if it was lawful for a man divorce his wife for any reason of his choosing?

Jesus replied, "Have you not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female? For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and the two shall be one flesh? Therefore, they are no more two but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined, man shall not separate." Matt 19:3-6

Clearly, God intended the bond of marriage to be a permanent. Divorce was not sanctioned from the beginning of creation.

The Pharisees then asked Jesus, "Then why did Moses require them to give a writing of divorcement, to put her away? Jesus answered, Moses allowed you to divorce your wives because of the hardness of your hearts: but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you, Whoever puts away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, commits adultery: and whoever marries this divorced woman commits adultery." Matt 19:6-9

Jesus said that there is only one lawful reason for divorce, and that reason is fornication. The English word fornication is translated from the Greek word 'porneia', which is used to describe many types of unlawful sexual acts, such as, premarital sex, extra-marital sex, and incest.

A person who divorces for 'porneia' is not causing the guilty partner to be an adulterer, because the offending mate is already an adulterer. Divorce for 'porneia', is just a reflection of the fact that the marriage contract has been broken by the adulterer (See Deut.22:13-27; Matt.19:9).

God forbade, on the penalty of death, for a man to have sexual relations with someone else's wife (Deut.22:22). But due to unbridled lusts of an unconverted mind, Moses, who was the Creator God's representative to national Israel allowed a man to divorce his wife under certain conditions. These conditions of divorce did not sanction divorce as a solution to sinful behavior or modify the sanctity of the marriage relationship, but merely acknowledged human failures to practice righteousness.. (See Deut.24:1-4; 21:10-14; Ex.21:7-11).

The primary purpose of the seventh commandment is to protect the sanctity of marriage, the marital partners, the family, and society from damage and destruction. There are very real dangers and penalties that both a spouse and their family members may face because of adultery or sexual perversion by a mate, such as, psychological damage, unwanted pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases. Plus the adverse impact that adultery and sexual perversion has on the extended family and society in general.

Today, the prevailing attitude toward marriage is very similar to the time before the Great Flood. The vast majority of people today, including many professing Christians, approach marriage as a means of self-gratification, especially regarding sexual relations. This attitude places the marital partner, and family needs secondary to a person's own sexual desires.

It is easily shown that adultery and sexual perversion are major causes of psychologically damage in marital partners and children of failed marriages. However, many psychologists and sociologists view premarital and extra-marital sexual relationships as healthy and believe that sexual fidelity should be removed from the marriage commitment, because it unnecessary and unnatural. However, this view point is in direct opposition to God's law concerning human behavior.

It is clear that people do not want to feel guilty about sexual practices that the Bible says are unlawful; therefore, they deny God's existence and cast aside his laws, or proclaim that the Ten Commandments are no longer in effect in order to justify their actions.

However, these beliefs do not change the fact that God's laws, precepts, and principles are empirical and do not need human validation for them to operate and exact a penalty for their violation.

A Sacred Trust

Marriage is more than a sexual union, it is a sacred trust and it involves a commitment in which both parties agree to belong to each other and to share their lives in a loving relationship.

Solomon said of a man's trust in his wife:

Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband does safely trust in her . . . She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. Prov 31:10-12

Trust in a marriage is foundation of the relationship and trust is one of the most fragile of human relationships. Once a trust relationship is broken,

the relationship is damaged forever and can seldom if ever be brought back to its original state.

Are we trustworthy?

Trust is not an abstract thought. A major characteristic of God the Father and Jesus Christ is that they are totally trustworthy. Everything that they say is true and everything that they promise they will perform. The Psalmist said of the trust relationship with God:

"But let all those that put their trust in you rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because you defend them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in you. For you, Lord will bless the righteous; with favor will you compass him as with a shield." Ps 5:11-12

Trustworthiness is a mark of godly character and is essential if a person is to be rewarded with eternal and immortal life. God the Father and Jesus Christ fully expect all those who profess to believe in them to be totally trustworthy in everything, including marital relationships.

When one breaches their trust agreement with God, there is always a penalty to pay, unless one repents. And even then, there is a chance of irreparable damage, which may cause the loss of a reward, a position, or a responsibility.

Under the first agreement with national Israel the penalty for breaking marital trust through an unlawful sexual act was death. However, since the advent of Christ and his sacrificial atonement, unlawful sexual acts can be forgiven. But this does not mean that a penalty for this sinful behavior will not be paid by the spouses, the family, and society, because unlawful sexual acts always cause some type loss or damage. Today, there is virtually no one on the planet who has not been adversely affected in some way because of an adulterous act that has caused the destruction of a family.

FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE

The historian, Edward Gibbons, who wrote *The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire*, gave five

reasons for the fall of this great nation.

The first reason was the rapid increase of divorce, and the destruction of the family, which is the foundation of society.

The second reason was higher and higher taxes.

The third reason was an inordinate desire for pleasure.

The fourth reason was the decadence of the people and the building of gigantic armaments, when the real enemy was within.

The fifth reason was the decay of religion; faith fading into mere form, losing touch with life, and becoming impotent as a guide.

Gibbons reveals that the foundation of the Roman Empire rested on a strong family unit, having a strong and respected father figure, and a high standard of ethics and morals. When this foundation began to crumble the Roman Empire was on an irreversible course to destruction.

The primary factors that contributed to the demise and destruction of the Roman family were divorce, sexual perversion, and the erosion of ethics and morals. These are exactly the same factors that are destroying families and nations today.

One does not have to be a sociologist or have a degree in behavioral science, to see that the majority of families in the Israelitish nations are dysfunctional at best, and that strong loving families are almost non-existent in these nations. Marriage and family as God intended is extremely rare. If this were not true the world in general would be a far different place to live than it is at present.

One only has to review the causes of the demise of a few great nations like Rome and the present ethical and moral condition of today's great nations to clearly understand that adultery, sexual perversion, and the breakdown of the family on a national scale, is a major contributor to a chaotic and unstable world we live in and that there is an urgent need to reverse this disastrous trend.

Sexually Transmitted Disease

In today's world, sexually transmitted diseases are one of the greatest health risks and sexually transmitted diseases are one of the greatest threats to the destruction of the human race. These terrible diseases cause blindness, insanity, and death. The uncontrolled spread of these diseases is an indication that something is terribly wrong with people's sexual behavior.

The primary cause of sexually transmitted diseases is adultery, premarital sex, and sexual perversion of all kinds. It is a fact that the largest populations being affected by these diseases are young people, homosexuals, and the third world nations. There is something terrible wrong with a society when sexual gratification is the primary factor in their decision making process and colors almost every aspect of their behavior.

The onslaught of sexually transmitted diseases is rapidly becoming a plague of biblical proportions which could be stopped in its tracks and for all intents and purposes eliminated, if people would only obey the biblical laws concerning sexual behavioral.

Freedom

When God created Adam and Eve, they were given the freedom of choice, they could chose to obey the instructions given to them by the Creator or they could chose to disregard them and do whatever they wanted to do. The problem, is that, they lacked the character to make wise decisions and chose to dismiss God's instructions with disastrous results. Most of mankind is following in the steps of these first humans, in that, the vast majority of humans consistently make the wrong choices concerning God's laws, precepts, and principles that explain how to live in harmony with him and their fellow man.

This seems to be the case when it comes to sexual gratification, historically humans consistently make the wrong choices and pay a huge penalty for these choices.

Humans have the ability to reason and the free will to choose and act but most are not satisfied with their share of life, which leads to looking at others and coveting what others have. Remember, Eve began coveting the fruit of a tree that was not hers to have. The result of Eve fulfilling her overpowering desire to have something that was not her's to have was disastrous, and humanity has been paying a heavy penalty for here actions ever since.

The ten commandments express God's will concerning wrongful desire: and state, "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor" (Ex.20:17 NIV).

This commandment clearly defines unlawful desire and its violation as a root of other wrong feelings, attitudes, and actions, which lead to the breaking of other commandments. Covetousness is an unlawful desire to possess something that does not belong to you, but belongs to someone else. Adultery is the manifestation of the lustful desire to have a sexual relationship with someone other than one's legal mate.

Adultery breaks God's laws on many levels and always exacts a heavy penalty on individuals and society as a whole. Look at all the heartache and destruction that adultery and sexual perversion has caused throughout history and causes today. Although, God gave people freedom to choose their own path through life and to live any life style they please, Choosing adultery and promiscuity is a choice with many short and long term penalties.

Satan's Ministry

It is strange that many teachers of the Bible speak volumes about God's love, grace, and mercy, but very few have the courage to teach about God's hatred of marital infidelity and sexual promiscuity. Could the reason for these teacher's silence, be that many in their profession are major offenders of God's laws concerning unlawful sexual relations. You be the judge.

What is for sure, is that, God through the prophet Jeremiah issued a strong condemnation of Israel spiritual leaders who are plying their profession today: God said:

"Woe be to the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore, this says the Lord God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; You have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, says the Lord." Jer 23:1-2

The Bible reveals that Satan and his ministers have counterfeited God's true message with a perverted version. It is this false message that has been accepted as the original teachings of Jesus Christ that is the false gospel.

In his second letter to the Corinthians Paul warned the Corinthians that they were putting up with people that were preaching a false gospel message, and he said to them,

"For such are false apostle, deceitful workers transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ." and Paul also said "And no marvel, for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers are also transformed as ministers of righteousness whose end shall be according to their works."

The true message that Jesus brought from his Father concerning the sanctify of marriage, is very different from what has been taught throughout the centuries and it is definitely a different philosophy of marriage and sexual fidelity than is being taught in many churches today. No matter how cleverly crafted and eloquently stated, marital philosophies that attempt to minimize God's laws concerning marital fidelity and sexual perversion, teach a message that is diametrically opposed to the Sovereign Father's teachings.

These deceptive teachings will always lead a person away from the truth of God and will always result in eternal death for those who believe and teach them, because they are a counterfeit of God's truth and are designed to destroy.

According to the apostle Paul, the god of this world is Satan the devil and he has blinded the minds of people who do not believe the message that Jesus Christ brought from his heavenly Father. And according to the Book of Revelation, it is Satan the devil who is deceiving this whole world. This powerful evil spirit known as the devil and other evil spirits are actively deceiving the entire world, political, philosophical, and religiously.

A part of Satan's deception, is the perversion of God laws concerning marriage, adultery, and divorce. This powerful evil spirit does not want God's laws practiced. He hates truth, justice, and God's way of life for humanity.

Satan is very effective at deception, because he mixes truth into his lies. Satan's goal is to confuse mankind by telling a mixture of truths, half-truths, and outright lies. Most of humanity including counterfeits of true Christianity follow this same pattern of deception by mixing truth with untruth to serve their own purpose.

Can God's law concerning adultery and its penalty be totally applied today? The answer is, no it cannot. However, if people would truly obey God, his system of justice could be instituted. But the prospect of this happening before Christ returns, is slim and none.

The truth is that, anyone can personally practice marital fidelity and chastity if they so desire. The overwhelming statistics show that doing other wise is a one way trip that leads to much trouble and according to the Bible to the Lake of Fire and the second death from which there is no return.

The End of the Age

The apostle Paul told Timothy that people's attitudes and behaviors in the end of the age would be as follows:

"Know this also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, truce breakers, false accusers,

incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." 2.Tim 3:1-7

This is exactly the ethical and moral condition of the world today. Moreover, premarital Sex, adultery, wife swapping, child molestation, bestiality, homosexuality, incest, and many others unlawful sexual acts are practiced today with little fear of the inevitable consequences of these behaviors.

It is not difficult to understand why people who are without biblical understanding practice these behaviors, but what is difficult to understand, is how people who profess to believe in and teach the concepts of the Bible can with a clear conscious teach, practice, and condone these behaviors in the face of God's instructions to the contrary.

In his reprimand to the Corinthian church the apostle Paul said:

"It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that does not occur even among pagans: A man has his father's wife . . . Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders" (1.Cor.5:1; 6:9 NIV).

On the surface, human behavior today seems to be much as it has been for centuries. However, this is not so. What Paul records as great wickedness is the behavior of people just prior to the return of Christ. Evil behavior today is on the increase; exceptionally evil behavior of all kinds is the norm in the world today, not the exception. The behavior of people today is the same as it was just prior to the great flood when God destroyed humanity for their wicked behavior:

Jesus said:

"For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark. And they knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matt.24:38-39 KJV).

Look around! The world is in great turmoil. Are any of the world's problems being truly solved today? Look around! There are wars, famines, disease epidemics, and environmental and natural disasters on a worldwide scale and on top of these problems are the problems caused people's insatiable appetite for self-gratification through promiscuous and perverted sexual experiences, which in all to many cases has led and is leading to the rapid deterioration of family values and the destruction of the family which is foundation of civilized society.

There is little doubt that we are living in the time just prior to the destruction of most of mankind. Do you want to survive and live or would you rather suffer pain, starvation, and mental anguish? Now is the time to prepare for your personal survival and avoid many of the horrors that will surely come upon all mankind at the end of this age.

To those who claim to follow Christ the apostle Paul says:

"Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed [covetousness], which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming" (Col.3:5-6 NIV).

Indeed, God's laws are a tremendous blessing to mankind when strictly practiced. These laws foster happy families, and peaceful, safe, and prosperous societies; which is what God wants all people to have. But today, there are only a very few people on earth who are truly attempting to live in conformity to God's laws and way of life.

EXAMINE YOURSELF

Today, many who profess to follow Jesus' example, but teach God's ways violate God's laws, principles, and precepts as if they were not a part of the biblical record.

To these hypocritical people Jesus says: Why do you call me, Lord, Lord, and do not do the things which I say? Luke 6:46

The apostle John said of these same people, "The one who says, I know him but does not keep his commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him" 1 John 2:3

John also said, "This is how we know that we love the children of God: When we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not a burden." 1 John 5:2-3 KJV

God gave his law to mankind for its benefit. It was designed to bring them happiness, joy, and prosperity during their lifetime. However, most people are not willing to accept these laws as an expression of God's love for them; instead, they rebel in their hearts, minds, and attitudes:

God said in Deuteronomy chapter 5 God said concerning ancient Israel and his law:

"Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!" (Deut.5:29 NIV).

Today the question for anyone who truly seeks to reap the benefits of a relationship with God the Father and his son the Savior of humanity is, Are you willing to seek forgiveness for violating God's law and seek to practice it with your whole being?

BE HONEST

An honest look at the teachings of Jesus Christ and the apostles leaves no doubt that, if we want to follow God's way of life, we must practice The Ten commandment and other laws that God set forth in

the Bible for the good of mankind.

The reason most people, which includes most professing Christians, do not want to keep the commandments is not because these laws are harsh or bad, it is because of the hostility people hold in their minds toward God and his law: "The sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God" (Rom.8:7-8 NIV). If we say the commandments are no longer in effect, we disagree with God the Father and Jesus Christ, which means that we do not want them in our lives.

Few seem to realize that almost all marital problems would be solved simply and effectively if married couples would follow the simple instructions of both the Old and New Testaments concerning the marital relationships

Should a Christian keep the commandments of God? The answer found in the Bible is that one cannot be a Christian unless one keeps all of the commandments.

I see that my time is up, if you want to know more about God's laws, precepts, and principles or the other subjects that I have briefly touched on in this in this broadcast, Write to me at the address given in the following announcement. Until next time this is Bud Cocherell for Bible research .org.

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