

### **Biblical Guidance on Adultery**

#### **Text: Proverbs 5, 6:20-35, & 7:1-23**

*“There is no getting away from it: the old Christian rule is “Either marriage, with complete faithfulness to your partner, or else total abstinence.” Chastity is the most unpopular of our Christian virtues.”*

-- C.S. Lewis

1. Define Adultery by using your Bible and a Bible dictionary.

1. *moichos* (3432) denotes one **“who has unlawful intercourse with the spouse of another,”** Luke 18:11; 1 Cor. 6:9; Heb. 13:4. As to Jas. 4:4, see below.¶

2. *moichalis* (3428), “an adulteress,” is used (a) in the natural sense, 2 Pet. 2:14; Rom. 7:3; (b) in the spiritual sense, Jas. 4:4; here the RV rightly omits the word “adulterers.” It was added by a copyist. As in Israel the breach of their relationship with God through their idolatry, was described as “adultery” or “harlotry” (e.g., Ezek. 16:15, etc.; 23:43), so believers who cultivate friendship with the world, thus breaking their spiritual union with Christ, are spiritual “adulteresses,” having been spiritually united to Him as wife to husband, Rom. 7:4. It is used adjectivally to describe the Jewish people in transferring their affections from God, Matt. 12:39; 16:4; Mark 8:38. In 2 Pet. 2:14, the lit. translation is “full of an adulteress” (RV, marg.).¶

3. *moicheia* (3430), “adultery,” is found in Matt. 15:19; Mark 7:21; John 8:3 (KJV only).¶

### **B. Verbs.**

1. *moichao* (3429), used in the middle voice in the NT, is said of men in Matt. 5:32; 19:9; Mark 10:11; of women in Mark 10:12.¶

2. *moicheuo* (3431) is used in Matt. 5:27-28, 32 (in v. 32 some texts have No. 1); 19:18; Mark 10:19; Luke 16:18; 18:20; John 8:4; Rom. 2:22; 13:9; Jas. 2:11; in Rev. 2:22, metaphorically, of those who are by a Jezebel’s solicitations drawn away to idolatry. *Taken from Vine’s dictionary*

2. What are some factors which contribute to adultery?

- Not listening to wisdom
- Not keeping a way from the immoral
- Not rejoicing in your spouse
- Not aware of the Lord
- **Not keeping the commands daily** (repeated)
- Desiring the beauty (Pr. 6:25, Job 31:1, Mat. 5:28)
- Lacking sense
- Naive
- Not being where we are supposed to be. (David 2 Sam. 11:1-2)
- Not staying on the right path

3. What are some of the consequences of adultery?

- Bitter as wormwood (any of several aromatic plants that yield a

bitter, dark green oil)

- Death
- Unstable
- Lose everything
- Ruin
- Reduced to a loaf of bread
- Burned
- Punished sevenfold
- Destory
- Wounds and disgrace
- Jealous spouse
- Cost him his life

4. Why is adultery like “playing with fire” (6:27-28)?
  - Adultery was punished by the law of Moses as a capital crime. *The adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.*
  - The way of this sin is down-hill, and those that venture upon the temptations to it hardly escape the sin itself. It consumes, burns.
5. Many strong men have been “slain” by the adulteress (7:27) – give a few Biblical examples of people who met their downfall due to adultery?
  - Judah and Tamar Gen. 38:16-30
  - David 2 Sam. 11:1-2
  - Hosea and Gomer
  - HEROD ANTIPAS and Herodias
6. What are the two great safeguards against adultery (5:8; 6:20-24)?
  - Pro 5:8 Keep your way far from her, and do not go near the door of her house
  - Keeping the commandments
7. How can we overcome the temptation of adultery?
  - a. Gen 39:9,12 -Run
  - b. Pro. 4:23- control our mouth
  - c. Pro. 5:1-2- Give attention to and observe wisdom
  - d. Pro. 5:8- Keep away
  - e. Pro. 5:15-20- Be faithful to your spouse
  - f. Pro. 5:21-22- Know the Lord is watching
  - g. Pro. 6:20-21- Keep the commandments
  - h. Mat. 5:28- Don't lust
  - i. 1 Cor. 7:2- Each have a husband and wife.
  - j. Heb. 13-4- Honor the marriage bed
8. Can the guilt of adultery ever be hidden from God (Pro. 5:21-23)?
  - No.
9. Adultery is a cruel sin whose pain and destruction are twofold. When will its consequences be experienced (5:7-14; 6:23-35; 7:24-27; Gal. 5:19-

21)? No and later

Questions adopted from Rob Harbison Lesson 9, The Book of Proverbs