

CCC AFFAIR-PROOFING YOUR MARRIAGE P7

Ten Values That Build Strong Families - Part 7

Exodus 20:14

I want to ask you a question, if you were riding down the road and if you were to see an "off" ramp sign on the Highway that says "do not enter" would you resent it or would you appreciate that it was there to inform you? If you were trying to find your way on to the freeway and you didn't know if it was an on-ramp or an off-ramp you would appreciate the fact that somebody put up a sign that said "this isn't an off ramp or an on ramp, wouldn't you." We are in a series called Ten Values That Build Strong Families and in this series so far we have seen that God has given us Ten Commandments in His word, the Bible to do just that, to guide us. We have found about that the Ten Commandments are not given to us God purpose but for

our purpose. We have found out that what maybe like God seem to say a negative to us... He always has a positive purpose behind it. He always has a reason and that reason is not to cause you pain. It is for your protection, for your benefit. God says when you play by My rules you win. Today were going to look at Exodus 20:14 -- our seventh commandment -- "*You shall not commit adultery.*" Nothing destroys a family faster than adultery. Even the mere mention of this word causes some of you pain and memories and shame. The purpose of today's message is not to resurrect your past. If you have confessed a sin to God, God has forgiven it and forgotten it and you need to do the same. Let me say it this way to you, if you feel guilty over sin that you have already committed and confessed to God and asked for His forgiveness let me tell you, that guilt you have is not from God. It's from Satan.

Don't let Satan condemn you for things that are in your past and have already been forgiven and forgotten when you've changed from it. Today we're going to focus on the future. God is no kill-joy. God invented sex. But like everything it must be controlled. He wants us to use it not abuse it. All of God's gifts have limitations on them. God has given us the gift of water. You can't live without water. But too much of it and you'll drown. God has given us fire. Fire can either warm you or burn you. It's how you handle it. God says I've given you a drive called, sex. Properly controlled and expressed within a marriage it's beautiful and fantastic. But outside of marriage it is destructive and detrimental to your health as a human being -- emotionally, spiritually, in every way.

Today, what I want us to look at is how do you affair proof your marriage. Notice God wants us to use sex as a tool for

building a marriage not destroy it. In Hebrews 13:5

"Husbands and wives be faithful to each other. God will judge those who are immoral and commit adultery."

In today's world that we live in there are permissive values in this world, these permissive values in this world basically says anything goes, we live in a society that is obsessed with sex. What am I trying to say to you this morning is, If you don't establish some guidelines for your life, for your marriage, you don't stand much of a chance of remaining pure. Readers Digest did a study and said fifty percent of all husbands and probably 35% of all wives have committed adultery. This is happening even among Christians, so what in the world is going on: what causes affairs. The Bible says, *"Adultery is a trap."* Proverbs 22:14. So how do we stay from being caught in that trap?

Instead of walking around and saying I shouldn't commit adultery what you need to do is affair proof your marriage.

How do you do that... you start by first:

1. MAKE A COMMITMENT TO GOD'S

STANDARDS. Regardless of your past, regardless of your

failures in the past, you start today, by making a

commitment to maintain God's standards for your life. That

means you agree with God about what He says about sex.

God's standards have never, never changed. The Bible says

that sex is for marriage only -- not before marriage, not

outside of marriage, but for marriage. God's word, the

bible says, "*How can a person keep his way pure?*" Ps.

119:9. The answer is by living according to..." the culture

of the day, No, by living according to God's word. God's

standard is very clear in His word. Adultery is never an

option, under no circumstances is it OK, there is no

justification for it, no matter what your background is.

Joseph in the Old Testament was seduced by Potipher's

wife. he had every reason in the world to give in to that

temptation - - I'm young, I've viral, I'm single, I'm in a

foreign country, it's an acceptable practice in this society,

she wants it, my desires want it, I've been abused, my

mother died when I was young, my father was over-

indulgent to me, my brothers hated me and sold me into

slavery -- he had a terrible family life, he was deprived of

love. He had every good reason in the world to indulge.

But He didn't, instead he said "I will not sin against my

God." The Bible says when he was tempted he turned and

ran. Maybe that's what you need to do too. You say but Bill

you don't understand, "but my wife, my husband is not

meeting my needs." That is not an excuse for you to

indulge.

Proverbs says "*Be faithful to your own wife. Give your love to her alone.*" This is not a suggestion. It is a commandment from God to you. That's the first step if you want to protect your marriage. You need to first say, I have decided that by God's grace regardless of what my spouse does, I will never be unfaithful to you. It's my choice. It's my decision. Regardless of what you do, I will never be unfaithful to you. That's the starting point. That needs to be your statement... The second thing you need to do is:

2. MAGNIFY THE CONSEQUENCES

Remind yourself of the devastation, the destruction and the pain that is caused by sexual sin. God's word says, "*The one who commits adultery is an utter fool for he destroys his own soul.*" Prov. 6:32 Nothing damages emotions like sexual sin. Nothing." Jesus said if your eye causes you to sin it's better to lose an eye than lose your soul. The one

who commits adultery is an utter fool; he destroys his own soul. Prov. 6:26 "*Adultery will cost a man all that he has.*"

In the Old Testament there was a guy whose name was, Esau. He was hungry and he sold his birthright, his inheritance, for a few moments of pleasure, for a bowl of porridge. I know people today who are selling their life away for one moment of pleasure. Here is the attitude you need... You need to have the attitude that says, I intend to be faithful to her for as long as I live. Why?

1. You love Jesus Christ and you owe Him your life.

2. I love my wife and kids. The thought of hurting them and what that would do to them is almost unbearable.

3. I fear the judgment of God. I think it is a healthy fear that you ought to have. The Bible says, you don't do this and get away with it. You may think you do... but you don't. You will reap what you sow. One day you will

explain to God why you chose to do what He said not to do. "God will judge those who are immoral and those who commit adultery." You don't get away with it... Some people justify God's grace by saying things like, God wants me to be happy. Yes, that's why He gave you the Ten Commandments. He knows better than you do. Adultery is ultimately selfishness in action. It's not love, it's selfishness. It's saying "I'm going to put my needs and what I think is right, my pleasure ahead of everything else -- ahead of everybody else... even God my creator. That is selfishness. That is not love. Parents somewhere you need to tell this to your children when they grow up. They need to be told what God says is right and wrong. The third thing you need to do is:

3. MANAGE MY MIND

People don't just fall into immorality. There is really no such thing as a one-night stand. It may seem that way, but you are not a moral, upright person today and by tomorrow you fall into immorality. It doesn't happen that way.

How affairs develop - It starts when you start;

Accepting sinful thoughts in my mind. The battle for any temptation in your life begins in your mind. Regardless of what the temptation is, the battle begins in your mind.

What you think about, you'll eventually feel and what you feel you'll eventually act on. James 1:14-15 "*Temptation is the pull of a person's own evil thoughts and wishes. These evil thoughts lead to evil actions, and afterwards to death.*"

The problem is most Christians will not get serious about their minds. They wonder what the big deal is and they continue the same thoughts, watching the same type movies, TV shows and they think, what's the big deal? I

can handle it. It doesn't bother me. That is such a lie. You are being deceived if you think that to be true. The battle begins in your mind. You become what you think about. If you think about positive, good, happy, loving, kind things, that's the way you will act. If you think lustful, dirty, trashy, obscene thoughts, that's the kind of person you will become. It's impossible not to be affected by what you let into your mind. 2 Tim. 2:22 *"Turn your back on lustful desires and give your positive attention to goodness, integrity, love and peace."*

Rom. 16:19 *"I want you to be wise about what is good and innocent about evil."* It's sad but most of us are the exact opposite. We are so wise and knowledgeable about what is evil, but we are ignorant about what is good. That's not God's way and it will lead you in the process of immorality if you don't control your own thoughts.

We are great in deceiving ourselves. We are experts at pulling the wool over our own eyes. Jeremiah 17:9 *"The heart is deceitful and desperately wicked. Who can know it?"* You are a pro at deceiving yourself. You can convince yourself that anything is OK given the circumstances.

Some of the excuses we have heard: "If only my husband/wife met my needs, I wouldn't be doing this." "Just one more time." "We love each other." "God loves us no matter what we do." "God will forgive." Both of those are true. God will forgive you if you are a Christian and have asked Him to and He will love you no matter what you do when you have Jesus in your heart. But I think it is absolutely arrogant to presume on the grace of God in this way.

So what do we do now? We'll with God there is always hope; He is the God of new beginnings. God is not

interested in were you were or were you were when you came in here today. The only matters to God starts now...

So what is **THE PATHWAY BACK TO PURITY**

I bring you Good News today. If you've been unfaithful to your mate there is still hope. You can come to Jesus Christ for cleansing. Adultery does not have to kill a marriage.

1. Acknowledge the sin.

Ps. 51, David's prayer when he committed adultery was to stop rationalizing it and call it what it is. He said Heavenly Father It's wrong. It's sin. It's against You, oh God, My Creator, and don't call it an affair, it's not an affair. It's adultery, that's what the Bible calls it. God has never changed His standard and He never will.

Premarital sex is unacceptable to God; it always has been it always will be. Living together without being married is unacceptable to God; it always has been it

always will be. Adultery is unacceptable to God, it always has been it always will be. Homosexuality is unacceptable to God, it always has been it always will be. Pornography is unacceptable to God, it always has been it always will be. God does not compromise on this.

If you're guilty of any of these issues I talked about, welcome to Calvary, Calvary is the church for you. This is a community of forgiven sinners, not perfect people. There are no perfect people in this church and it is not a place for self-righteousness either. Calvary is a place to come and get your act together and a place to come to find forgiveness and healing and a new life and break the power of temptations that you don't think you can break on your own because you can't without God's help. This is the place to do it because we're all working on it together. We all know what we're capable of and we're not kidding each

other so we don't fake it or pretend here at Calvary. We know we need guidelines to keep us in line. Confess and receive forgiveness from God and then you can forgive yourself.

2. End the relationship immediately.

Do it now. "Today if you hear God's voice don't harden your heart" the Bible says. Take action immediately. Don't Delay. Whatever it takes to break the relationship. God thought up sex. It's His idea. In marriage it is wonderful and fantastic and a beautiful expression of Christ's love for the church, the bible says. But used improperly it destroys marriages, damages families and lives, damages self esteem, creates misery and guilt, shame and regret, depression, not to mention all the kinds of communicable diseases that are out there today. God says I've established these rules for your benefit. you don't play by the rules, you

get hurt. God's way is the best way and you can get back on tract. You open your life to Jesus Christ and say, "Jesus Christ, come in and be the manager of my life and help me manage this sex drive that, You gave me in the first place." You ask for forgiveness for past mistakes and sins and receive that forgiveness and then you can forgive yourself. Then you make a commitment to be morally pure the rest of your life forward. That means you're going to have sex only to the person you're married to. Maybe you've realized that some of those thoughts in your life weren't harmless after all and you need to say, "God, help me change my thought life." Maybe you've been involved in an emotional attachment and think there's no sex involved so it's OK. Nip it in the bud. Maybe you've had the heartbreak of an affair in your marriage. There is hope.

Let us pray: