

Refrain >From Adultery or Pay the Consequences

Text: **Proverbs 5:8-23**

Introduction:

1. Even though society does not look down upon adultery in the marriage as it once did, it still should be a stigma (or shame) to the Christian. As a Christian we should disdain the thought of adultery even being mentioned within the church. The consequences of an adulterous affair are so drastic that brings lifelong heartaches.
 - a. Non-trust of the marriage partner, loss of love, 'get-even attitude, children paying the penalty for their parent(s) mis-deeds wondering what a marriage is to be and not to be.
 - b. Even divorce which brings heartache and pain between two who loved one another at one time. The children, most often, are the big losers in a divorce – not understanding what is wrong between mom and dad.
 2. The same is with our spiritual life when we commit adultery by going after other gods, these gods can be our worshipping in churches established by men (those that are not set up by God Himself – referring back to the Day of Pentecost in which Christ established His church, while all others, which are man-made came hundreds of years after Christ built His church), work, sports, family, money, hobbies and anything else that separates us from the One and True God.
 - a. The consequences for remaining in an adulterous affair spiritually leads to separation from God for all of eternity.
 3. This evening we are going to look into the fifth chapter of Proverbs and look at some ways that we can refrain from committing adultery.
 - a. The ways that we are going to look at are: (1) Abstain from adultery, (2) Committing yourself to your first love and (3) Understanding that an adulterous affair has consequences.
- I. Abstain (v8)
- A. Keep far away (*abstain means to refrain from something by your own choice*)
1. Don't even go there is to be the command to abstain from adultery.
 - a. A married man should not even go there – for **IT IS WRONG** and will lead to disaster – the same as for a married woman who goes after another man – **IT IS WRONG** and it all leads to heartache – especially if children are involved.
 - b. We live in a world whereby man, in his great wisdom, laughs at adultery, we have Hollywood which condones adulterous lifestyle and even our culture is permeated in this sinful lifestyle – we must never go there – **HEARTHACHE** and **MISERY**.
 2. The same as in our spiritual life, we must **NOT EVER** go there – since God is a Jealous God.
 - a. He will punish – we have the Old Testament full of examples of the Israelites turning from the true God to go after false gods, worship false gods, pay homage to false gods and to make for themselves false gods.

- b. We must look out for our very spiritual life and our walk before our Great God – PEACE and TRANQUILITY is with God – PAIN and MISERY is with false gods.

B. Do not give your vigor to the adulteress (v9)

1. In an adulterous marriage, the adulterer will give all of their love, time and energy to their 'NEW partner in the adulterous affair.
 - a. Leaving their first true love in matrimony to cast their love upon someone (in their own eyes) who appears to be more pleasing to the adulterer.
 - b. All their time and energy spent upon a sinful lifestyle
2. The same can happen in an adulterous situation in our spiritual life.
 - a. All of our love for another (g)od that will not save.
 - b. All of our time and energy to this (g)od, manmade or just a lifestyle that is PLEASING in one's own eyes.

C. Do not spend your whole being and strength upon the adulteress

II. Commit (v15)

A. Yourself to your first love

- a. Remember your vows that you repeated to your wife or husband – to love to cherish to keep in thick and thin till death do you part
 1. A commitment that means that you keep your word, because words mean something.
 2. A commitment to one another that means that you are in your marriage for keeps, it is final, nothing to come between you, lasting, working daily as your love grows for one another, to please the other, to cherish and to hold, yes that is commitment and no matter what comes up, you can work it out small or big, because you have made the commitment to each other to do it.
- b. The same is in our spiritual walk with Jesus Christ
 1. He is to be our first love, spiritually, and to remain our love till the end.
 2. We MUST NOT commit ourselves to 'OTHER spiritual leaders other than Jesus Christ – it must not be some manmade religion or some manmade dogma or doctrine that is not found in God's word, for Jesus Christ has told us in **Matthew 15:9, 13-14**, "*BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.*", "*Every plant which My heavenly Father did not plant shall be uprooted.*", "*Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit.*"
 3. Jesus built ONE church [not many as the religious world would have you believe] ("*I will build My church*" – **Matthew 16:18**; "*There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.*" – **Ephesians 4:4-6** and He alone is the HEAD over the church, "*For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the*

head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.”
Ephesians 5:23

B. Your fountain to be blessed

- a. In total commitment to one's own mate in matrimony they will be richly blessed, because God has said so – blessings, come from children, happiness, joy, peace, love for one another, and is multiplied when God is in the center of their life, with riches, within the family, beyond comprehension.
 1. With many children, a marriage couple becomes a family as God would have the marriage.
 2. *“Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; They will not be ashamed When they speak with their enemies in the gate.” – Psalm 127:3-5*
- b. In total commitment to God, a person will be richly blessed with all spiritual blessings, answered prayers (and yes, NO is an answer), Someone to find comfort in and yes we must never underestimate the answered prayer, rather it is in a life saving situation, a person that is converted to Christ with answered prayers on their behalf, the prayers of whole congregations to hundreds of congregations praying on your or my behalf offering up prayers to our Mighty God who can help one at all times if we allow Him.

C. To rejoicing with your first love.

III. Consequences (v21)

A. In that God knows all of our paths.

1. The Psalmist aptly gives us a difference between the two paths in **Psalm 1:1** *“How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!”*
 - a. One path is to be blessed – the righteous path,
 - b. While, the path of an adulterous is a path of the sinners, the wicked and the scoffers.
2. The path of the adulterers is broad (the rest of the world is doing it) and many are on it, but Jesus tells us that this path leads to destruction in the spiritual world and leads to separation, hatred, heartaches, pain, without hope and total distrust of all in a marriage that has come apart in an adulterous affair.
3. While the path of those who remain faithful is narrow and leads to life eternal in the spiritual world and leads to happiness in the marriage.

B. That one's own iniquities with the adulterous will capture him like a spider does its prey in its web. (v22)

2. Being held by the very cords of his or her sins.
 - a. To a point of not being able to get out of the situation that they have gotten themselves into.
 - b. Or, not caring that they are in the adulterous situation forgetting to look forward to the end when the adultery will come to an end – then WHAT?

- c. Advice, **NEVER, NEVER** get into that type of situation (physical or spiritual).
 - 2. In the web of deceit that the adulterous spreads before the ‘*blinded*’ victim.
- C. Dying for lack of instruction (v23)
 - 2. The instructions are there for us to follow, it is up to us to **READ** and **HEED** – rather it is when one becomes married (**REMEMBER YOUR VOWS**).
 - 3. The same as when a person commits spiritual adultery the instructions on **HOW** to **PREVENT** it are in God’s Word and it is up to us to **READ** and **HEED** the instructions – as a Christian, we must **NEVER FORGET** the **VOWS** we made to God – that we would love Him with all of our heart, soul and mind – and He should be forever first in our lives – naming Him Lord and Savior.
- D. In his folly he has left the path and gone astray.
 - 0. To an adulterer in the marriage – taken a path that leads to misery.
 - 1. While in spiritual adultery the path leads to total destruction of oneself in hell damnation, unless they repent and come back to the God and remain faithful until the end.

Conclusion:

- 1. Adultery, rather in the marriage or in the Christian life, spiritually speaking, has too great of consequences to be taken lightly.
- 2. The apostle Paul in **Galatians 6:7-8** is telling us today that we are “*not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.*”
- 3. Solomon in Proverbs chapter five has told us how we can refrain from adultery (in the marriage or our spiritual life) by abstaining from the very act, committing ourselves to our first love and totally to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and our Christianity and by realizing that adultery does have consequences which are very dire and **MUST BE** taken seriously – **YOUR** very life depends upon it.