

Zion Presbyterian Church
Macon GA
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The Nature of Adultery Part 2

God did not leave it up to us to figure out how to live a righteous life, He gave us His Law to use as our rule of ethics. Unfortunately, many Christians today ignore the Law as being 'Old Testament' and have left their righteousness to their own devices.

This evening, we will look at how adultery starts in our minds and if left unchecked, can completely destroy our thinking as in the case of David who was unaware of how the sin had taken over his life.

2 Samuel 12:1-15 Then the LORD sent Nathan to David. And he came to him, and said, "There were two men in one city, the one rich and the other poor. (2) "The rich man had a great many flocks and herds. (3) "But the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb Which he bought and nourished; And it grew up together with him and his children. It would eat of his bread and drink of his cup and lie in his bosom, And was like a daughter to him. (4) "Now a traveler came to the rich man, And he was unwilling to take from his own flock or his own herd, To prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him; Rather he took the poor man's ewe lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him." (5) Then David's anger burned greatly against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, surely the man who has done this deserves to die. (6) "And he must make restitution for the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing and had no compassion." (7) Nathan then said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD God of Israel, 'It is I who anointed you king over Israel and it is I who delivered you from the hand of Saul. (8) 'I also gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your care, and I gave you the house of Israel and Judah; and if *that had been* too little, I would have added to you many more things like these! (9) 'Why have you despised the word of the LORD by doing evil in His sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the sons of Ammon. (10) 'Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' (11) "Thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you from your own household; I will even take your wives before your eyes, and give *them* to your companion, and he shall lie with your wives in broad daylight. (12) 'Indeed you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, and under the sun.'" (13) Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has taken away your sin; you shall not die. (14) "However, because by this deed you have given occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born to you shall surely die." (15) So Nathan went to his house. Then the LORD struck the child that Uriah's widow bore to David, so that he was *very* sick.

1 Corinthians 10:1-14 For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; (2) and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; (3) and all ate the same spiritual food; (4) and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. (5) Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness. (6) Now these things happened as examples for us, that we should not crave evil things, as they also craved. (7) And do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, "THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND STOOD UP TO PLAY." (8) Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day. (9) Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents. (10) Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. (11) Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. (12) Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. (13) No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it. (14) Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

Adultery starts as an impulse and God did not design us, or leave us in a state to be guided by our impulses.

2 Peter 2:1-6 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. (2) And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; (3) and in *their* greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. (4) For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; (5) and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; (6) and *if* He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing *them* to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly thereafter;

Again, there were many false prophets at that time who were minimizing adultery and living adulterous lives themselves.

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We must remember, that God is unchangeable, what was sin then, is certainly sin now. There is no difference. If God was raised up David's household against him, would he not do the same today?

God is also forgiving though, an adulterer can be cleansed.

Psalms 51:1-19 For the choir director. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. Be gracious to me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Thy compassion blot out my transgressions. (2) Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. (3) For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. (4) Against Thee, Thee only, I have sinned, And done what is evil in Thy sight, So that Thou art justified when Thou dost speak, And blameless when Thou dost judge. (5) Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. (6) Behold, Thou dost desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part Thou wilt make me know wisdom. (7) Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. (8) Make me to hear joy and gladness, Let the bones which Thou hast broken rejoice. (9) Hide Thy face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities. (10) Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. (11) Do not cast me away from Thy presence, And do not take Thy Holy Spirit from me. (12) Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation, And sustain me with a willing spirit. (13) *Then* I will teach transgressors Thy ways, And sinners will be converted to Thee. (14) Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; *Then* my tongue will joyfully sing of Thy righteousness. (15) O Lord, open my lips, That my mouth may declare Thy praise. (16) For Thou dost not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; Thou art not pleased with burnt offering. (17) The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise. (18) By Thy favor do good to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. (19) Then Thou wilt delight in righteous sacrifices, In burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then young bulls will be offered on Thine altar.

What is the nature of adultery?

We all know adultery is the subject of humor in contemporary entertainment, and the sanctity of marriage is its unwitting foil. Why is this so? Could it be that it is one of our most dangerous sins? Would the great deceiver attempt to make something so dangerous seem so harmless? He's betting your life on it.

Proverbs 6:27-29 Can a man take fire in his bosom, And his clothes not be burned? (28) Or can a man walk on hot coals, And his feet not be scorched? (29) So is the one who goes in to his neighbor's wife; Whoever touches her will not go unpunished.

Job 31:9-12 "If my heart has been enticed by a woman, Or I have lurked at my neighbor's doorway, (10) May my wife grind for another, And let others kneel down over her. (11) "For that would be a lustful crime; Moreover, it would be an iniquity *punishable by* judges. (12) "For it would be fire that consumes to Abaddon, And would uproot all my increase.

Adultery is both a sin, and a punishable crime as prescribed in the Bible. It defiles our bodies and defiles the very image of God as the relationship of Christ and us, The Church, is represented in the covenant of marriage.

Without Godly council the adulterer is often left to their own devices, apart from the grace of God, and headed for sure destruction.

Romans 1:21-32 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. (22) Professing to be wise, they became fools, (23) and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. (24) Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, that their bodies might be dishonored among them. (25) For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. (26) For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, (27) and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. (28) And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, (29) being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are* gossips, (30) slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, (31) without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; (32) and, although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.