

August 20th, 2023
Wrecked: Week 2

Question: How many of you are married?

- How many of you are not married, but you would like to be married one day?
- One more question, whether you are married or not; how many of you honestly plan on one day committing Adultery or having an Affair?

What is really interesting to me is that none of us plan on committing adultery or having an affair, but according to the Journal of Psychology and Christianity, up to 65% of husbands and 55% of wives will commit adultery by the age of 40!

Why is it that none of us say, "I plan on committing adultery" but yet, according to the statistics, a lot of people in church will?

Let me give you two big reasons:

1.) We have a spiritual enemy whose mission is to steal, kill, and destroy everything that matters to the heart of God.

2.) Unquestionably, one of the major things that matters to God for humanity is the Covenant of Marriage.

When Television first started, Ozzie & Harriet and Ward & June Cleaver didn't even sleep in the same bed!

Today we have Sex in the City, Desperate Housewives, Temptation Island, and Hollywood promoting married couples jumping In & Out of any available bed they can find!

Don't think that doesn't sway Culture! And don't think that it doesn't sway the Minds of Husbands and Wives!

What's happening is, one day you wake up and think...

- My spouse is not really all that I hoped for and I am a little bit dissatisfied.
- My needs and expectations are not being met.
- Ladies wonder, "Where did my Prince Charming go?"
- We question if it's really a sin to be true to who we are and say we are dissatisfied?
- Spouses that declare, "I just want to be happy."

And, step by step, we move, and somewhere we cross a line. But the steps were small enough and we were able to rationalize each one, and then we can't even be sure When or Where we crossed the line!

Let's make it easy. I am going to give you four very easy and practical steps to commit adultery or have an affair!

Step 1: I advise you to Neglect your Marriage.

- You can start by neglecting yourself and let yourself go, and take your marriage for granted. Never bring your best.
- Spend more time looking at Facebook than in the Face of your spouse!
- I also recommend you find something, anything, outside of your marriage that you can give the majority of your energy to.

Step 2: Avoid ALL Intimacy.

Have no relational intimacy: don't talk openly, don't share your heart, don't listen, just become roommates. Avoid sexual intimacy as well. If you have sex, just make sure it is boring and predictable.

Step 3: Enjoy common interests and form an emotional bond with someone else.

Step 4: Make excuses and rationalize your actions.

- "Well if my wife was meeting my needs, I wouldn't have to be looking elsewhere."
- "Well if my husband had a sensitive bone in his body, then I would shut down these advances."

Main Teaching: Proverbs 5

A Father is instructing his son about the dangers of forsaking his Covenant Relationship with a relationship OUTSIDE his marriage.

I. Do whatever it takes to radically reduce the RISKS.

Proverbs 5:8-10 (NIV)

Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house, lest you lose your honor to others and your dignity to one who is cruel, lest strangers feast on your wealth and your toil enrich the house of another.

Here's the problem, to many of us, we believe the "line of sin" is way over there with physical adultery. The problem is, in God's eye, the line of sin is not way over there, but it's right here!

Matthew 5:28 (NIV)

But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Stay away. Guard your heart, guard your eyes, guard your mind.

So, those of you who are married, here is just a good little test you can do. Ask yourself this, if we kept a video all day long of all of your interactions with other people and we showed that video to your spouse, would you be proud for your spouse to see how you behave? If all of your emails, all of your texts, if all of that was fair game and your spouse looked at all of it, would you say, "Hey yes, I am treating other people with integrity and I would be proud of my spouse to see this." Or, would you go, "Oh, I wouldn't want her to see the way I talk to other guys." Would you be proud?

Now, those of you that are single, you're kicked back today, going free pass, this is easy. Watching all the married folks sweat! I would ask you this: If your behavior today was recorded on video and shown to your future spouse, would your future spouse say that you were honoring in the way you acted today?

Let's be honest, there are a lot of people today who are crossing the sexual line of sin with people before they are married. The Bible calls it Fornication, for our study today we can call it Premarital Adultery. You are cheating on the person you are going to marry later on. Today, long before you even met that person, because you are living outside of God's standards, you're being unfaithful!

II. Do whatever it takes to INVEST passionately in your marriage.

Proverbs 5:18-20 (NIV)

May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. A loving doe, a graceful deer—may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be intoxicated with her love. Why, my son, be intoxicated with another man's wife? Why embrace the bosom of a wayward woman?

Let me say it this way: Whenever the grass starts to look greener somewhere else, it's time to water your own yard!

The word ATTRACTED in Hebrew is translated as Captivated and it's the word 'shagah' (shaw-gaw). It's a Word Picture that is used when an animal captures, kills, and eats another animal.

To be captivated, to be enraptured, to be intoxicated, to be consumed; that is what you should be with the wife of your youth.

Debbie and I have been working on that for 38 years! We can tell you there is more 'shagah' going on now than there has ever been! We're closer and more intimate and more in love today. There have been definite times where stuff, people, church work, stress, insecurities tried to wedge themselves into our Covenant, and it doesn't all happen at once! It's slow and deceptive!

So to have a lot of SHAW-GAW, you have to put the WORK in!

III. Do whatever it takes to visualize the potential destruction if you do go down this road of sin.

Proverbs 5:3-5 (NIV)

For the lips of the adulterous woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave.

Question: How many have ever said: If I only knew THEN, what I know NOW?

All that stuff you're looking at, whether ONLINE or out in the world, it's all an illusion.

Men, picture this: sitting down with your children and saying, “Kids, you know I love you, but here is why I can’t live with you anymore,” and tell them what you did.

Ladies, picture going to your mom and dad and saying to mom and dad, “Here is what I did; kids, here is what I did.” Fast forward and visualize the reality of what your decision means.

Me:

- It would be a Community headline.
- Christ, and the Church, gets a black eye.
- I’m going to get called into our District Office.
- I wouldn’t be the pastor here any longer. Everything I have worked for in the last 15 years would be gone. The integrity that I have today I would never gain back ever again.
- I’d one day stand before God!

But that’s the easy part! I’d have to look into the eyes of my wife of 38 years, who loved me more than I deserve. I’d have to sit my kids down and unpack everything they ever believed in me and watch them wrestle with, “Why did I throw it all away?”

For those of you having an easier time swallowing this, let me leave you with this.

What percentage of people actually marry their forbidden lover? Three percent. What percentage of those marriages end in divorce? Seventy-five percent, three in four. So, what are the odds of you marrying this person that you NOW love so much? .075%, less than 1%.

Why? Because what you have is based on lies and deception.

Can I give you some Good News? If we’ve been unfaithful, and are repentant, God is always faithful. No matter how bad we blow it, no matter how far we drift, his grace, his power, his goodness, and his healing are always available!

Let me give you 4 ways to INVEST in your marriage.

- Get Transparent. You have to open up and share your feelings and your heart.
- Get alone. Husband & Wife time.
- Get spiritual. Pray, read God’s Word.
- Get help. If you are in trouble, you need to make an appointment this week.