

"AVOIDING SPIRITUAL ADULTERY ... DISCOVERING THE JOY OF FAITHFULLY LOVING GOD"

1) What is spiritual adultery?

Being unfaithful to God by an adulterous relationship with the world.

→ God is pictured as a "husband"; Christians/church are pictured as His "bride"
(Is 54:5-7; Jer 3:14, 20, 31:32; Hosea 2:2-5, 3:1, 9:1; Mt 22:2-12; I Cor 11:2-3;
Eph 5:31-32; Rev 19:7)

2) How do we commit spiritual adultery?

- ◆ *Friendship with the world* (James 4:4)
- ◆ *Worshipping other "gods" or "idols"* (Ex 20:3-6); *trying to serve two masters* (e.g., Jesus and money -- Mt 6:24); *idolatry is a sin and considered wicked* (I Cor 6:9)
- ◆ *Loving the world or things in the world* (I Jn 2:15-17); *having our minds obsessed with earthly things* (Phil 3:17-21)

3) Why should we avoid spiritual adultery?

- ◆ *God is a jealous God; spiritual adultery can invoke His just wrath against us* (Hosea 2:2-5; Lk 12:42-43; Ex 34:14; Duet 9:16-19, 32:16,21; Joshua 24:19-20; Judges 2:12).
- ◆ *We are commanded to be faithful to God* (Joshua 24:14; Ex 20:3-6; Mt 25; Rev 2:10, 13:10)
- ◆ *We will "reap what we sow"* (Gal 6:7)
- ◆ *We will miss out on spiritual blessings here on earth and, more importantly, we will receive less reward in heaven* (I Cor 3:11-15; Mt 25; Gal 6:7)

4) How do we avoid spiritual adultery?

- ◆ *Avoid all false "gods" and "idols"* (Ex 20:3-6; Duet 4:15-31, 6:13-15, 9:19, 28:14;

Joshua 23:7-8; I Jn 5:20-21); *stop trying to serve two Masters -- serve Jesus only!*
(Mt 6:24)

- ◆ *Set our HEARTS and MINDS on things above, not things here on earth (Col 3:1-3; 2 Cor 4:18)*
- ◆ *Do not be conformed to the mold of the world, but have our minds transformed by God's Word (Rm 12:1-2). Keep from being polluted by the world (Jm 1:27). Don't let anything worldly master you (I Cor 6:12-13).*
- ◆ *Remember that Satan is a temporary prince of the world, has deceived the world, and the world system is influenced by him (I Jn 5:19; Jn 12:31, 14:30; 2 Cor 4:4)*
- ◆ *Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers (2 Cor 6: 14-18)*
- ◆ *Learn to be in the world, but not of it (Jn 17:14-18)*
- ◆ *Be set free by learning and applying **truth** from God's Word (Jn 8:31-32, 17:17)*
- ◆ *Remember that we are only temporary visitors here on earth; our real and eternal home is in heaven (I Pet 2:11-12; Phil 3:19-20; Eph 2:6,19)*
- ◆ *Keep our focus on Jesus (Heb 12:2); remember why we are here on earth:*
 - *Witnesses for God (Acts 1:8)*
 - *Evangelizers \ Disciplers (Mt 28:19-20)*
 - *Ambassadors \ Representatives of God (2 Cor 5:20)*
 - *Fellow Workers with God (2 Cor 6:1; I Cor 3:9)*
 - *"Light" & "Salt" (Mt 5:13-16)*
- ◆ *Develop a closer relationship with God*
 - *Learn more about Him; spend more time with Him; learn about His great love for you and your special relationship with Him*

"But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:14-15)