

THE SIN OF ADULTERY

John Edwards

The word of the Lord says, *“Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge”* (Heb. 13:4). The sin of adultery may be committed different ways:

LYING CARNALLY WITH YOUR NEIGHBOURS’S WIFE.

The law stated, *“Moreover thou shalt not lie carnally with thy neighbour’s wife, to defile thyself with her”* (Lev. 18:20). Such was a *“shalt not”* (Ex. 20:14; Dt. 5:18) and carried the death penalty under the Old Testament (Lev. 20:10). *“Adultery”* is among *“the works of the flesh”* and *“they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God”* (Gal. 5:19-21).

LOOKING ON A WOMAN TO LUST AFTER HER.

Jesus taught, *“That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart”* (Mt. 5:28). Job expressed a principle we would do well to apply today: *“I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?”* (Job 31:1).

UNSCRIPTURAL MARRIAGE, DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE. The Lord instructed, *“That whosoever*

shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery” (Mt. 5:32). Again He commanded, *“Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery”* (Mt. 19:9). Paul wrote the Romans, *“For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man”* (Rom. 7:2-3). From these Scriptures we learn: (1) To marry one who is *“divorced”* or *“put away”* is to commit adultery (Mt. 5:32; 19:9). (2) To *“put away”* one’s spouse for some reason other than fornication and *“marry another”* is to commit adultery (Mt. 19:9). (3) For a woman to be *“married to another man”* while *“her husband liveth”* is to be *“an adulteress”* (Rom. 7:2-3).

THOSE MARRIED TO CHRIST KEEPING THE LAW OF MOSES. Paul used the

marriage relationship to teach a law lesson in Romans 7:1-4. Just as a woman cannot be married to two men at the same time without being guilty of adultery, one married to Christ cannot be subject to two laws at the same time without being guilty of spiritual adultery. We are *“dead to the law”* (v. 4) and *“delivered from the law”* (v. 6) that said, *“Thou shalt not covet”* (v. 7). This shows the Ten Commandments are not binding on New Testament Christians. We are *“under the law to Christ”* today (1 Cor. 9:21; Gal. 6:2).

FRIENDSHIP OF THE WORLD. James 4:4 teaches, *“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”* By being *“a friend of the world”*, we become *“the enemy of God”* and are guilty of spiritual adultery. We must maintain the proper relationship with God in the world. *“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed...”* (Rom. 12:2). *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world....”* (1 Jn. 2:15).

Thus, the sin of adultery may be committed in a natural sense and in a spiritual sense. Let’s not commit it in any sense.

THE BIBLE IS

Nicolas Edwards

The Bible describes itself in many ways. A good way to learn about the Bible is to allow it to tell us what it is. The Bible says it is:

SCRIPTURE. Paul asked, “*for what saith the scripture?*” in Romans 4:3 and Galatians 4:30. “*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable...*” (2 Tim. 3:16). Jesus taught, “*ye do err, not knowing the scriptures...*” (Mt. 22:29). The Bible is Scripture.

THE WORD OF GOD. “*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*” (Rom. 10:17). Every time we open the Bible, we need to be impressed with the fact that it is the word of God! It is not man’s opinions or thoughts. Whenever we neglect to read and study the Bible, we neglect the word of God!

LAW. The Bible is the law of God. “*The law of the Lord is perfect...*” (Ps. 19:7). Today, we live under the law of Christ (Gal. 6:2). We must obey the law and not break the law!

A TESTAMENT. As you open your Bible, you will see it is divided into two testaments: the old and the new. The Bible is a testament, a will, or a covenant. Jeremiah prophesied about a new covenant (Jer. 31:31-34). God made the first covenant old and now we are under a new and better testament (Heb. 8:6-13; 10:9-10). This is the will and testament of Christ, who is the Testator (Heb. 9:14-16).

SEED. In the parable of the sower, the word of God is described as seed (Lk. 8:5-15). Hearts of men are described as soil. The seed of God’s word brings forth fruit when it is sown into an honest and good heart. We need to get the seed out of the barn and put it in the soil (Hag. 2:19).

THE FAITH. There is one faith (Eph. 4:5). Galatians 1:23 says Paul “*preached the faith.*” What did Paul preach when he preached the faith? The gospel (Gal. 2:2)! The gospel is the faith and the faith is the gospel. There is one faith and it is to be believed and obeyed. “*Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto*

the saints” (Jude 3).

THE TRUTH. “*For the word of the Lord is right; and all his works are done in truth*” (Ps. 33:4). The Lord said in His prayer, “*Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth*” (Jn. 17:17). Truth is objective; not subjective. Truth is not whatever I think or feel it is. Truth is not what I want it to be. The Bible is truth. That means if I disagree with the Bible, I am wrong! When I believe something other than the Bible, I believe error. When I am living in a way that differs from Bible living, I am living wrong. The Bible is the truth and whatever it says, that is the way it is! Jesus said, “*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*” (Jn. 8:32). The truth will only make you free if you hear it, believe it, obey it, and continue in it (Rom. 10:17; 2 Th. 2:10-12; 1 Pet. 1:22; Jn. 8:30).

Let us respect what the Bible says it is. Learn what it says and do it without adding to it or taking away from it (Rev. 22:18-19).

The Terre Haute **SPEAKER** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

Assembling At:

4017 E Margaret DR
Terre Haute, IN 47803
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,
W on Margaret DR approx. 1 mile]

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