

# Strengthening Your Marriage

## Review Lesson #8 “Romance And Sexual Intimacy”

Genesis 1:28 “Be fruitful and multiply”

Genesis 2:22,25 “(God) brought her to the man... therefore, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.”

Proverbs 5:15-20 “Drink water from your own cistern, and running water from your own well... Let them be only your own and not for strangers with you. Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of your youth... Let her... satisfy you at all times and always be enraptured with her love. For why would you be enraptured by an immoral woman, and be embraced in the arms of a seductress?”

Hebrews 13:4 “Marriage is honorable among all and the bed undefiled, but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”

1 Corinthians 7:2-4 “Because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her and likewise also the wife to her husband.”

1 Corinthians 7:5 “Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer, and come together again, so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.”

## Lesson #9 Guarding Your Heart:

(Understanding and protecting against moral failure in marriage.)

### Remember Your Marriage Covenant To Each Other.

Proverbs 4:23,25-27 “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life. Let your eyes look straight ahead... ponder the path of your feet... do not turn to the right or the left. Remove your foot from evil.”

Malachi 2:15 “So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.”

Proverbs 2:9-12,16,17 “Then you will understand what is right and just and fair – every good path. For wisdom will enter your heart... discretion will protect you and understanding will guard you. Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men... it will save you also from the adulteress, from the wayward wife with her seductive words, who has left the partner of her youth and ignored the covenant she made before God.”

## **The Reality Of The Battle Of The Flesh:**

Galatians 5:17 “The sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other so that you do not do what you want.”

1 Peter 2:11 “Abstain from sinful desires which wage war against your soul.”

Romans 7:15-23 “For I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do... I know that nothing good lives in me, that is in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good... but it is the evil I do not want to do, I keep on doing... I want to do good, yet evil is right there with me... I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members...”

## **Warnings In Scripture About Adultery:**

Proverbs 5:3-11

Proverbs 6:23-35

Proverbs 7:5-27

Proverbs 30:20

Exodus 20:14,17 (adultery/coveting neighbor’s wife)

Hebrews 13:4

Matthew 5:27,28

## **Anatomy Of An Affair:**

Song of Solomon 2:15 “It is the little foxes that ruin the vineyard.”

2 Samuel 11,12 (David’s sin with Bathsheba)

Temptation:

Evil desire/thoughts: (all sin begins first in the mind)

Evil behavior:

Cover-up: (rationalization/manipulation)

Spiritual blindness/hard heart: (“deceit” Heb. 3:12; Ps. 32:2; 73:7)

Further sinful behavior (“ever-increasing wickedness” Eph. 4:19; Rom. 6:19)

Confrontation: (Nathan)

Destructive consequences

James 1:8,14,15 “A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.” “Each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.

Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.”

Steps toward moral failure:

Initial contact/attraction/temptation

1 Corinthians 10:13

Hidden thoughts/double-mindedness/a wandering heart/evil desire/lust

1 Corinthians 2:11; James 1:8,14,15; Matthew 5:28; 9:4; Job 31:33

Planned, regular time/excuses

False thinking (rationalization/discontentment/false romance)

Proverbs 23:7; Jeremiah 4:14; Isaiah 55:6-8; Psalms 139:23,24

False intimacy (an emotional affair)

Neglect of spouse and family relationship

Substitution

Unwillingness to repent or reconcile (Prov. 28:13; 1 Jn. 1:9)

Dissolution of marriage/divorce/damage control

## **Casting Crowns, “Slow Fade”**

### **Consequences Of A Believer Involved In Sexual Sin:**

(Randy Alcorn: “Consequences Of A Moral Tumble”)(what’s at stake)

Guilt:

Romans 6:21 “What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death.”

Psalms 38:3,4,18 “Because of your wrath there is no health in my body; my bones have no soundness because of my sin. My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear...I confess my iniquity, I am troubled by my sin.”

Psalms 32:3,4 “my bones wasted away... your hand was heavy upon me.” (v. 5 “and you forgave the guilt of my sin.”)(Ps. 65:3)

Slavery:

Romans 6:16 “You are slaves to the one whom you obey...”

2 Peter 2:18,19 “...by appealing to the lustful desire of sinful human nature... they promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity – for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.”

Psalms 19:13 “Keep your servant also from willful sins may they not rule over me.” (119:133)

Conflict within one's own home:

2 Samuel 12:11 "Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity upon you..."

Galatians 6:7 "You reap what you sow..."

Destruction of one's reputation:

Proverbs 6:32,33 "A man who commits adultery lacks judgment; whoever does so destroys himself. Blows and disgrace are his lot, and his shame will never be wiped away."

Disqualification:

1 Corinthians 9:27 "I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize."

Guarantee of God's discipline:

Hebrews 12:10,11 "God disciplines us for our good that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."

God gives us over

1 Corinthians 5:5 "Hand this man over to Satan, so that the sinful nature may be destroyed and his spirit saved on the day of the Lord."

Psalms 106:14,15,43; 81:12 (Is that really what you want?)

### **Dealing Biblically With The Flesh:**

Galatians 5:16 "Live by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature."

Galatians 5:24 "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires."

Romans 6:1 "Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means!"

Romans 6:11-14 "Count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God... do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God... and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master..."

Romans 6:17-19 "Thanks be to God that though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness." "Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery

to righteousness leading to holiness.” (v. 22 “the benefit you (now) reap leads to holiness and the result is eternal life.”)

Colossians 3:5,8-10 “Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature, sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desire and greed, which is idolatry.” “But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these... since you have taken off your old self with its practices, and have put on the new self which is being renewed in the knowledge in the image of its Creator.”

Romans 13:14 “Let us behave decently, not in orgies... sexual immorality and debauchery... rather clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.” (Don’t even go there...)

1 Corinthians 6:18 “Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.”

2 Timothy 2:22 “Flee youthful lust... but pursue righteousness... along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” (you are not alone!)

2 Corinthians 10:4,5 “The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds... we take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.”

Psalms 119:9,11 (Hebrews 4:12,13; James 1:21-25)

Job 27:6; 31:1,7,9

Hebrews 13:18

### **God’s Grace: A Godly Marriage To Righteously Enjoy And Satisfy Sexual Desire**

1 Corinthians 7:2,3,9 “If they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.”

Hebrews 13:4 “Marriage is honorable among all and the bed undefiled, but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”

1 Corinthians 10:13

Titus 2:11,12

2 Peter 2:9; 1 Peter 1:5 “kept by the power of God”

### **Goal: A Clear Conscience**

Job 27:6; Acts 24:16