
Words of Truth

God Will Not Be Your "Other Lover"

By: Brian A. Yeager

Adultery is a common practice in our society today. The act of having sexual intercourse with a person who is married to another has always been sinful in the sight of our God (Exodus 20:14, Leviticus 20:10, Deuteronomy 5:18, Proverbs 6:20-35, Matthew 5:27-30, Romans 13:9, and Galatians 5:19-21). Men and women have long sought to have "side action" apart from their spouses. Such is not a new thing.

Men and women are taught of God to be monogamous (Proverbs 5:15-23 and I Corinthians 6:15-7:5) in our carnal relationships. Yet, there have long been people who are comfortable with having lovers on the side. Some do not even have shame in such activities (Proverbs 7:6-21). Notice this: *"Such is the way of an adulterous woman; she eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, I have done no wickedness"* (Proverbs 30:20).

God views Himself as the husband of His people (Isaiah 54:5, Jeremiah 3:14, Hosea 2:19-20, and Ephesians 5:22-33). God considers sinfulness as spiritual adultery (James 4:4). Consider how God views spiritual adultery: *"How weak is thine heart, saith the Lord God, seeing thou doest all these things, the work of an imperious whorish woman; In that thou buildest thine eminent place in the head of every way, and makest thine high place in every street; and hast not been as an harlot, in that thou scornest hire; But as a wife that committeth adultery, which taketh strangers instead of her husband! They give gifts to all whores: but thou givest thy gifts to all thy lovers, and hirest them, that they may come unto thee on every side for thy whoredom. And the contrary is in thee from other women in thy whoredoms, whereas none followeth thee to commit whoredoms: and in that thou givest a reward, and no reward is given unto thee, therefore thou art contrary. Wherefore, O harlot, hear the word of the Lord: Thus saith the Lord God; Because thy filthiness was poured out, and thy nakedness discovered through thy whoredoms with thy lovers, and with all the idols of thy abominations, and by the blood of thy children, which thou didst give unto them; Behold, therefore I will gather all thy lovers, with whom thou hast taken pleasure, and all them that thou hast loved, with all them that thou hast hated; I will even gather them round about against thee, and will discover thy nakedness unto them, that they may see all thy nakedness. And I will judge thee, as women that break wedlock and shed blood are judged; and I will give thee blood in fury and jealousy. And I will also give thee into their hand, and they shall throw down thine eminent place, and shall break down thy high places: they shall strip thee also of thy clothes, and shall take thy fair jewels, and leave thee naked and bare. They shall also bring up a company against thee, and they shall stone thee with stones, and thrust thee through with their swords. And they shall burn thine houses with fire, and execute judgments upon thee in the sight of many women: and I will cause thee to cease from playing the harlot, and thou also shalt give no hire any more. So will I make my fury toward thee to rest, and my jealousy shall depart from thee, and I will be quiet, and will be no more angry"* (Ezekiel 16:30-42). How could we read that and think that God is okay with being second place in our lives?

God Demands All Of Our Attention On Him

If someone asked you what is the greatest instruction from God, how would you answer? Jesus answered like this: *“And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment”* (Mark 12:28-30).

God wants our affections to be upward (Colossians 3:1-4). He wants us to seek the kingdom of His Son first (Matthew 6:33; cf. Colossians 1:12-13). God specifically instructs the opposite when it comes to the world. Notice: *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever”* (I John 2:15-17).

How can anyone, you or I included (II Corinthians 13:5), read the Scriptures referenced thus far and think that God is okay with us having other “love interests” (so to speak)? When we preach and teach that all we do needs to start with authority from the Lord (Colossians 3:17), we need to apply that consistently. God does not authorize us to make Him our second love interest. In fact, it is impossible to serve the Lord and others.

Cannot Serve Two Masters

Jesus said: *“No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon”* (Luke 16:13). Jesus says we are either with Him or against Him (Matthew 12:30 and Luke 11:23). God has always demanded His people choose Him fully or not at all (Joshua 24:15 and Revelation 3:14-22). Those who have divided interests cannot be His servant (Luke 9:57-62 and Luke 14:25-33).

Yet, even after reading Scriptures such as you should have been reading in this article, people still struggle with making the Lord the “other man” in their spiritual lives. How? Why? Double mindedness causes spiritually instability (James 1:8). We’re not supposed to be tossed too and fro (Ephesians 4:14). God has proven His love for you and I far beyond what anyone or anything else could ever attempt to do (I John 4:9). God promises us a reward far beyond what anyone or anything else could ever attempt to do (I John 5:11). How is anyone or anything else comparable and worthy of our affection?

Conclusion

Don’t cheat on God. No matter how appealing someone or something else might be, the relationship with that person or thing is not worth it. We have a jealous God (Deuteronomy 4:24). He acts in that jealousy (Nahum 1:2). He will come to that figurative bed in which you are committing spiritual adultery and He will act like a jealous husband (Revelation 2:18-23). Keep God where He belongs in your life – FIRST and FOREMOST (Matthew 4:10).