

Thou shalt not commit adultery

By Elise L. Moore, C.S.

This is supposed to be a true story. A noted author could not detach himself from a woman at a party. She fawned all over him trying to impress him. Finally he turned to her and said, "Madam, would you go to bed with me for a million dollars?" She lit up. "Oh, yes," she purred.

"Would you go to bed with me for ten cents?" he continued. Indignant, the woman drew herself up and snapped, "What do you think I am!"

"Madam, that has already been determined. Now we are just dickering over the price."

How are we justifying immoral behavior? Are we in love? Are we lonely? Are we proving that others find us attractive? Are we being faithful but not wanting to be committed?

Any sexual relations outside the moral provision of marriage is being disobedient to the 7th commandment, "Thou shalt not commit adultery".

Proving our love by having sex without marriage is like the ancient ritual of sacrificing to idols. There is no power in an idol. It cannot make you happy. Cannot fulfill you. Cannot give you anything good. But in ancient times people sacrificed animals, crops, even children hoping that their sacrifice would be great enough to warrant some good in return. If good came, it was not actually due to the idol. The good would have come anyway. Their sacrifices were needless and pointless.

Sex is like an idol. It is powerless to bring good into our lives, but we think it can. We are worshipping idols when we put sex before obedience to God.

Happiness comes from God. We need to think more about pleasing God than pleasing a person. People change and we can get hurt. But God never changes. He is the source of real happiness. Joy, safety and spiritual power come in return to obedience to God's commands.

What if we don't feel we are sacrificing anything to have sex with another? We've had sex before. It's nothing new. What's the difference?

Purity, fidelity, obedience are qualities of thought. They are never lost, although they may languish unused. Each day is a fresh opportunity to act up to our higher nature. Each day we have a choice—to be obedient and receive the blessings flowing from obedience to God. In fact, God will daily urge us to obey Him until we do so. It's never too late.

God's commands are not to restrict us. They are to protect us. Good judgment is clouded by sex. We don't see the person for who they really are. We don't see ourselves for who we really are. We excuse bad behavior. We overlook unkindness, irresponsibility, even violence. We may become jealous, possessive, suspicious.

Being obedient to God's command to not commit adultery clears our judgment. It's not just not having sex. It is the desire to put God first.

Putting God first in our lives gives us proper priorities. It keeps us safe from impulsiveness. Protects us from deception. Promotes spiritual growth. Fidelity to God's commandments strengthens a good relationship and tears apart a bad one. Either way you are a winner.

Today you can commit yourself to God and be faithful to Him and His commandment, Thou shalt not commit adultery. By doing so you will earn the blessing, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." (Matthew 25:21)

Published in: *Nashville Metropolitan Times April 7, 1996*
Gallatin News Examiner April 8, 1996
Times Mirror Tennessee July 30, 1997