

# Life of David

A Man After God's Own Heart

## Adultery

- Adultery is defined as voluntary sexual activity between a married person and someone other than his/her spouse.
  - By definition, premarital sexual activity is not adultery, but falls in the category of fornication.
  - According to Scripture, mental-attitude consideration of such activity is equivalent to the physical activity [Matt 5:27-28].
  - Spiritual adultery is defined as a believer violating his marriage to Jesus Christ.
  - This is found in Scripture where the Hebrew (נָאֵף – na'aph) or Greek (μοιχεία - moicheia) term for adultery is used metaphorically.
- Physical Adultery
  - Forbidden under the Mosaic Law [Exod 20:14].
  - Punishable by death under the Law [Lev 20:10].
  - Man may not know, but God will judge [Heb 13:4].
  - Leads to personal devastation [Prov 6:32-25].
  - Typically begins in a shroud of secrecy [Job 24:15].
  - Preceded by mental-attitude sin [Matt 5:27-28].
  - Continued indulgence of this mental-attitude sin results in eyes “full of adultery” [2 Pet 2:13-14].
  - Those involved can end up resorting to self-justification [Prov 30:20].
  - Violates the command to love [Rom 13:8-10].
- Spiritual Adultery
  - Israel guilty in her idolatry [Jer 3:8-10; Ezek 16:32].
  - Hosea's marriage to Gomer was intended to teach this important doctrine.
  - As the Bride of Christ, we in the Church are guilty today if we are devoted to anything or anyone but Christ [Eph 5:25-27; Jas 4:4].
  - Can infest entire churches [Rev 2:22].
- Conclusions
  - Whether our adultery is physical adultery or spiritual adultery, we do great damage to our souls when we are unfaithful.
  - As with any sin, the solution to adultery is repentance and confession [2 Sam 12:13; Psalm 51:1-4; Prov 28:13; 1 John 1:9].