



ADULTERY—A SIN THAT IS BESETTING US

We are being assaulted with the very deadly sin of adultery and other sex sins. Everywhere we look, in the movies, on television, advertising, music, etc. the lust of sexual pleasures are being exhibited. This sensuality has had its effect on spiritual leaders as much as anyone else. We need to be reminded in order to be forewarned.

By Jerry Healan

Some very prominent names in our society have lately been in the news because of the sin of adultery. One man, the holder of the highest secular office of the land, the Presidency, was found to have been associated with the sin of sodomy, rape, adultery, etc. This, of course, brought great shame upon the office of the Presidency as well as the nation itself.

When facing the sodomy charge, the President was being counseled by a man who has ministerial credentials. At least, this man goes by the title of "Reverend." Lately, it has been revealed that this same so called "Reverend" was also in a case of adultery, even while he was counseling the President on his situation. His "lover" was carrying his child!

As stated, these sins bring great shame upon the offices that these men have been holding and upon themselves. Of course, in our hedonistic society of today, shame has been converted to pride and necessity because of a lack of Scriptural knowledge and understanding. (You would think that a minister with the title of "Reverend" would understand this.)

Also, one of the shameful problems that we have in the assemblies today is that of adultery! Several members have fallen victim to this deadly sin, but horrors above horrors, even elders and some elder's wives have fallen to this sin!

What can we expect from the sheep of Yahweh's pasture when their leaders, their pastors or shepherds are falling victim to this and other serious sins? We are in a spiritual war, brethren! While each and everyone of us is subject to the passions of the flesh, we must not allow ourselves the luxury of falling victim to these sins!

The elders are supposed to be on the forefront of the battle, but too many are falling victim to this deadly sin. Yes, I say DEADLY! Sin is the transgression of the law (1 Jn. 3:4) and the penalty or wages for breaking the law is death (Ro. 6:23, first part).

It has been reported that one ex-elder who has been shamefully taken up in this sin of adultery, threatened to kill himself unless his mistress came to live with him. The adulteress felt such great compassion for him that she had to go to be at his side. How ridiculous, brethren! Why couldn't they see that they both had already committed suicide, spiritual suicide! To continue in that sin is simply to trample on the sacrifice of Yahshua the Messiah! To hold Him to an open shame, and that, before the congregation!

This article may not be welcomed by the many in the world, and it may not even be welcomed by many in the assemblies, but someone must speak out and show us the consequences of adultery and sex sins!

THE MARRIAGE COVENANT

Marriage is still a reality in our modern day world regardless of what the critics and enemies of marriage may otherwise imply. Of course, divorce is also another reality. Many in today's world have experienced the heartaches and pains of divorce, whether because of parent's, grand-parent's or their own divorce. It is a scourge that is greatly affecting our society.

Because of the heartaches and pains suffered through divorce and unhappy marriages, many people have decided that the marital commitment is simply not for them. They had rather play the field, live together and when it is over, leave it all behind.

At least these people realize that marriage is a serious commitment, but just living together for a time and then parting company is not where it's at. Such actions breed irresponsibility. The people themselves and children born in this situation are still hurt in the process.

Most people have never considered the commitment that marriage brings upon them, nor do they realize the responsibility of marriage. The game that people play is boy meets girl or man meets woman, there is an immediate attraction and desire (lust) which is interpreted as love and, given these feelings, marriage seems to be the best and next thing to do (at least that is how it worked at one time).

Marriage is a covenant that is made between two people (who are supposed to be male and female). While many people are making up their own wedding vows, the preponderance of marriages go the traditional way and exchange the traditional vows.

The man is asked, "Do you, John Doe, take Jane Doe to be your lawfully wedded wife, to have and to hold? Do you promise to provide for her and care for her? Do you promise to love and cherish her in sickness and in health, to cleave to her in riches or in poverty, for better or worse, in good times and in bad times so long as you both do live?"

While this may not be the exact vow, it isn't far off course. The woman also takes her version of this vow. But look at what we promise! We promise to love, cherish, provide for, cleave to, etc. whether we are sick or healthy, whether we have wealth or want, whether times are good or bad FOR AS LONG AS WE BOTH DO LIVE!

Look at that again! We make a **covenant**, a vow, a promise for the rest of our lives! Furthermore, we make this vow, this covenant before Yahweh and before witnesses. But do we really mean it? We promise the other party, we make the covenant with them that we will be faithful to them for the rest of our life!



Y.E.A.



The problem is that most people never take this covenant seriously! They just go through the motions in order to make their desired and imagined pleasures legal. In other words, it seems like the right thing to do. And it is if there is going to be any conjugal activity.

Israel did that same thing with Yahweh! He offered a marriage covenant to them which was to last forever! They accepted the terms of the covenant and so did Yahweh. But Israel did the same thing that most people do today in the marriage covenant, they went through the motions in order to get what they wanted, what they imagined they would receive, long life, riches, power over other nations, etc. However, like so many of the marriages today, it didn't last. They turned to other Elohim, forsook Yahweh their Elohim and Husband, committed adultery (spiritual adultery and harlotry) and the marriage was eventually dissolved!

But Yahweh was serious about the marriage covenant He made with Israel. He was faithful to Israel and He still is! He has already promised to make a new and better covenant with Israel and Judah which will never fail because it will be based upon the word and promises of Yahweh, Himself, and not on the word of unfaithful men!

FAITHFULNESS

There are two most important covenants that we can make in this world today. They exist on two levels. There is the human, physical level and then there is the spiritual level. On the human level is the marriage covenant between man and woman. On the spiritual level there is the covenant between Yahweh and those who are His. It is most important that we are faithful to these covenants.

On the spiritual level, we must be called and chosen. Yahshua revealed that many are called but few are chosen (Mt. 20:16; 22:14) Those who are called and chosen must be faithful to the end of their life (Rev. 2:10). What are we called and chosen for? To take part in the marriage supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:7-9)!

Marriage on the physical level is for the purpose and preparation on the spiritual level. If we can't be faithful on the physical level, how can we be faithful on the spiritual level?

Yes, I know that there are many, many problems in marriage. The love or feelings that a person has for another usually will change over time. But what this world views as love is **romanticism!** Look at that word! What jumps out at us is "ROMAN!" This is a love that is patterned after the Roman style of love. What did the Romans know about love? A study of their history will reveal that they knew little about it. But that is the type of love that is expected to be experienced in today's world!

True love is based on the principals of Yahweh's law, which is spiritual, but still applicable on the physical level. Of course, since the preponderance of people deny, reject and live contrary to His word, how can they begin to know what true love is? If we are to make a success of our lives and our marriages, then we must

repent and begin to apply Yahweh's principles and commands.

The world that we live in today is the remnants of the Roman Empire. Rome was the fourth kingdom of Dan. 2 and the fourth dreadful beast of Dan. 7. It is the roman system that we are to come out of if we are to live for Yahweh's kingdom and if we are to take part in the marriage of the Lamb. Therefore, romance and romanticism is a love that has no value in Yahweh's eyes. Romance or romanticism does not endure to the end. It only lasts for a little season and then fades away. A person taken up with romance will have to eventually go outside their current relationship in order to stir up the romantic feelings again.

Real love is a love that is faithful to the end no matter what the relationship has suffered. After all, isn't that the promise of the marriage covenant to begin with? With too many people, when the going gets tough or even routine, they are ready for a change no matter what they promised in their vows. Where is the attitude that we are going to make this work and we are going to be faithful to our word no matter what we suffer. That was the attitude that Yahshua had and He kept that attitude until the day that He died. Now He has that attitude forever! How about you, all of you elders and non-elder leaders of the assembly? If you are set up as a leader of the assembly, then you must act as a leader of the assembly, following Yahshua's example! That also goes for the lay members of the assembly. Your marriage and your family is very important to Yahweh whether you want to believe it or not. Yahweh and His word are supposed to be very important to us also. The pleasures that we can experience in this life are not supposed to be more important to us than Yahweh and His Word! Yahweh wants His people, above all, to be steadfast and faithful.

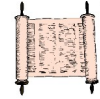
THE REASON FOR DIVORCE

Yahshua was asked, "Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?" Mt. 19:3. How typical of our world today. People get divorces for any and every reason that anyone can dream up.

Yahshua answered, "Have ye not read, that He Which made them at the beginning made them male and female," and said, "For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?" Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. **What therefore Yahweh hath joined together, let not man put asunder.** They say unto Him, "Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?" He saith unto them, "Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so. And **I say unto you, 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.**" His disciples say unto Him, "If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry." But He said unto them, "All men cannot receive this



Y.E.A.



saying, save them to whom it is given," Mt. 19:4-11.

Again, Yahshua declared, "It hath been said, 'Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement:' But I say unto you, 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. 5:31-32.

Yahshua said that all men cannot receive this saying, save them to whom it is given. To whom is it given? Isn't it given to those who are members of the body of the Messiah? And if you are baptized in the name of Yahshua, if you have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit, then these words are for you.

Notice that Yahshua said the man and his wife are to become as ONE FLESH even though they are two individuals. If we hearken back to the first man and woman, we see in Scripture that the man was first made and then the woman was made for him (Gen. 2). But the woman was made from the rib of the man who was put to sleep so that the operation could be performed. One became two and then was commanded to be ONE FLESH (Gen. 2:20-24). When we take marriage vows, we are actually covenanting to become one flesh for the rest of our lives. When we come together as husband and wife, Yahweh recognizes this and binds the marriage.

Yahshua said that the only reason for divorce to be given was in the case of fornication. The problem with this English word is that it applies to sex before marriage. But fornication was translated from the Greek word "porneia" which has to do with sex sins in general. In other words, it can have to do with fornication or sex before marriage, but it also has to do with illicit or immoral sex after marriage. It includes adultery, homosexuality, bestiality, etc.

But what about abuse, alcoholism, desertion, etc.? Why should we have to address these issues in the assembly? Surely they do exist, but the problem is that they shouldn't, just like adultery should not exist in the assembly either.

What about Yahshua's example? He came to prepare a bride for Himself. What did He suffer? Rejection, unfaithfulness, disbelief, mockings, cursings, abuse even to the point of death! Did any of this deter Him from His goal and purpose? Not in the least!

When we are called to become a chaste virgin (1 Cor. 11:1-2), set aside in preparation for marriage to the Lamb (Rev. 19:7-9), we are warned that there will be persecution, pain, grief, suffering, rejection, etc., etc. even to the point of death! We are advised to count the cost as to whether we can finish what is begun in us, are we not? Look at the abuse and persecutions that the apostles suffered after they received the Holy Spirit. Did this deter them from the intended goal and purpose? No! A thousand times NO!

We are called to follow the same example that Yahshua and the apostles set. We are called to love others and to be patient with them even when we suffer these things. Are you beginning to see why Yahshua said that not all are able to receive these sayings? And I am sure that not all, even in the assemblies are able to

receive what is being written here.

Of course, I have gotten off track here by bringing in other reasons that are given not only for divorce, but also for abandoning the assembly. But Yahshua said that the only reason to be able to obtain a divorce is for the sin of "porneia" (sex sins). Why did He say that this and only this was the acceptable reason for divorce? Look at the marriage covenant again. We promise to take the person for better or for WORSE!

If that person is a good person and always does everything right it is very easy to live with him or her. But if that person's disposition changes for the worse after saying the words "I do" it is too late, we have covenanted that we will take them for even the WORST that they can be. That is why we need to know the person very well before we marry them.

THE EUNUCHS

Does this mean that a person must live in a state of misery where their life is in jeopardy and maybe even their children's? Absolutely not! But what did Yahshua say? In Mat. 19, the disciples were amazed at what Yahshua had said and even told Him if such was the case that it was better if a person never even marry, but Yahshua told them, "All (men and women) cannot receive this saying, save them to whom it is given. For there are eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it," vv. 11-12.

If a marriage comes to the point that the two absolutely cannot live together, then they can separate, but they must live as eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake! In other words, you do not have the freedom to remarry, except in the case where sexual sins are committed.

The Apostle Paul writes, "The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Sovereign," 1 Cor 7:39.

Paul corroborates what Yahshua said, does he not? Because of this, marriage is not anything to be taken lightly. It is something that should and must be entered into with much forethought and carefulness! At least for those in the body of the Messiah.

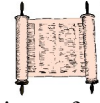
PERSONAL EXAMPLES

I personally confronted one man because it was reported that he had committed adultery. He looked me squarely in the eye and told me that he had never committed adultery against his wife. I had to believe him because the other person who reported this to me was relaying second-hand information. Also, Scripture requires two or three witnesses, not second-hand information.

Later, I received the information of the three required witnesses. This man had divorced his wife and then taken up with another woman. I had known of the di-



Y.E.A.



force at the time that I had confronted him. He had divorced his wife simply because he had not loved her for about 10 years.

I am not writing of this example in order to shame anyone, unless that shame would lead to repentance! But things must be said and examples must be given if we are to realize how faulty our reasonings are.

When I learned of his involvement with another woman after the divorce, I accosted him again. He admitted involvement with the other woman, but that was after the divorce so, in his mind, he had not committed adultery against his wife.

What kind of thinking is this? Even if the divorce were legal in Yahweh's eyes, does that mean that he can jump in bed with anyone that he desires? Absolutely not! Sex outside of marriage is still sin! That may be the way that the world thinks and acts, but if one is set aside as a chaste virgin to the Messiah, then he or she has no right to go out and seek any kind of illicit sex.

If this man were free to remarry, which he is not in Yahweh's eyes and according to the words of Yahshua and the apostles, that still does not free him to have sex with anyone that he desires.

I had to tell him that he was not welcome to fellowship with us until he changes his attitude and situation, in other words, REPENT!

Another man sought to force me to perform a marriage ceremony for him and his fiancé. I refused, having the knowledge that this man had been twice married with children from each marriage. I won't go into the details as to why each marriage failed, but suffice it to say that he was the major reason in each instance. He did get what he wanted (a third marriage), but from someone else.

The amazing thing is that this man desires to force physical circumcision on every male and also wears the zitzits or fringes. The Apostle Paul has the proper words for this situation, "For circumcision verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision. Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision? And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfil the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law? For He is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: but he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of Yahweh," Ro. 2:25-29.

It is interesting and amusing to see other men in the assembly also, who have been divorced and remarried running around sporting their brand of righteousness in the wearing of the zitzits.

DAVID'S EXAMPLE

Many men, especially church and assembly leaders, who are caught in the adultery scandal simply seek to justify themselves by utilizing King David's example. One silver haired, silver tongued evangelist of world

renown who has been a repeated offender time after time is well known for utilizing this type of justification. But there is a difference.

Yes, King David committed adultery with Bathsheba. Yes, when he couldn't work things out so that her husband would think the child that was conceived out of adultery was his, David had the man killed. But what David did displeased Yahweh (2 Sam. 11:27). Look at the consequences that David and his family had to suffer because of his actions.

Blessings were withheld, "And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, **I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things,**" 2 Sam. 12:8.

Yahweh told David that the sword shall never depart from his house (v. 10). That He would raise up evil against him out of his own house, and his own wives would be defiled by one who was close to him (v. 11). Furthermore, David had given great occasion to Yahweh's enemies to blaspheme. Finally, the child that Bathsheba was carrying would have to die.

I have never heard one of the men who utilized David's example for their own justification, refer to the curses that were brought upon David for the sin that he committed. They always point out to the forgiveness and grace that Yahweh extended to him, but never to the consequences. Would any of these men be willing to suffer the same consequences that David and his family had to go through? That is something to think about before one gives any consideration to committing the act of adultery.

Besides all that, King David repented deeply before Yahweh and Psa. 51 is a result of this very situation. Yahweh's love and presence was so important to David and he repented so deeply that he never committed such an atrocity again. But so many of the men who seek to justify themselves through David's example are repeat offenders time after time.

THE SPIRIT OF ESAU

I contacted one ex-elder, involved in the sin of adultery, in an attempt to reason with him concerning what he was doing to himself, his family and the assembly. While an elder is a servant, he is also set up as someone in a leadership position before the assembly. He is to be one in the forefront of the battle against the wickedness and evils of this world. The kingdom of heaven is supposed to be our chief aim and we are supposed to be there to assist others in apprehending that goal.

The kingdom of heaven is to be our inheritance! When we are baptized in the Sovereign Yahshua the Messiah, we are regenerated to a much more lofty purpose and goal than what we can ever have or experience on this earth in the flesh. As a matter of fact, the flesh and its desires must be put to death for the kingdom of heaven's sake. The kingdom of heaven becomes our birthright!

I wanted to explain to this man the fact that the kingdom of heaven is our birthright which we must desire



Y.E.A.



above everything else. We can't afford to allow anything to get in our way! If we give ourselves over to the flesh we are following the example of Esau and not Jacob. The book of Hebrews explains this very well, "Follow peace with all, and holiness without which no man shall see the Sovereign: looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of Yahweh; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; **lest there be any fornicator** (immoral person), or profane person, **as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.**" 12:14-16.

The ex-elder reported to me that the topic of his adultery was not open for discussion. But I will discuss it with all those in the body of the Messiah who receive this newsletter.

Esau lived for the moment, for now, for the present evil world and the pleasures that could be experienced in it. The examples of the great men of Scripture reveal that they were quite willing to give up the pleasures of this present evil world in order to apprehend something better, something that they couldn't even presently see or receive (Heb. 11).

Abraham forsook the easy pleasurable world of Ur of the Chaldees, became a shepherd living in tents in a more backward environment in order to apprehend a city that he knew was being prepared by Yahweh. Isaac and Jacob also dwelt in tents, living the hard, seemingly backward lives of shepherds rather than experiencing the pleasures of the cities and kingdoms of this world. Moses was a great general in Egypt, an adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter. He could have inherited Egypt, its power and pleasures, but he forsook them, choosing rather to suffer with his own people and for the kingdom of Yahweh's sake.

This present evil world inundates and tempts us with all forms of sexual pleasures on every side. We must live in this world, but we must come out of its spirit and attitude. We must set the example of desiring the kingdom of heaven more than our own lives. It is a kingdom that we cannot presently see and surely the world looks on us with mirth and amusement because it only believes in what it can see. It only believes in the things that the teachers, scientists, geologists, archeologists, leaders and princes of this world can postulate and prove.

We must not become an Esau! We must not exchange the kingdom and its promises for the riches and pleasures of this world lest we suffer what Esau suffered! Look at what the Scriptures say about him!

ESAU'S JUDGMENT

"For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for **he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.** For ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which *voice* they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: they could not endure that which was

commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: And so terrible was the sight, *that* Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake: But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living Elohim, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and called out of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to Yahweh the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Yahshua the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of* Abel. See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. **For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:** Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, 'Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven.' And this *word*, 'Yet once more,' signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve Yahweh acceptably with reverence and pious fear: For our Elohim *is* a consuming fire," Heb. 12:17-29.

Esau is called a fornicator. A fornicator is one who commits sex sins whether in the flesh or in the spirit. Heb. 13:4 also testifies, "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and **adulterers Elohim will judge.**"

Yahweh has already judged Esau and his posterity as those whom He hated, "As it is written, 'Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated,'" Ro. 9:13. Why? Consider Esau's original inheritance and birthright. He was to have the kingdom of Elohim on earth. Yahweh was to be His Elohim and he and his descendants were to be Yahweh's own children. He was to have riches, honor and power. Furthermore, the Messiah was to come out of his loins! This would bring in an even greater blessing for the heavens and the earth itself.

Esau sold all of this and much, much more because he was hungry. He despised his birthright for a bowl of lentils.

When Esau sold his birthright, he was so hungry that he thought he was going to die (Gen. 25:32). His actions revealed that, first off, he thought that his own brother would allow him to die of hunger. Secondly, and more importantly, he had no trust in Yahweh, the Elohim of Abraham and Isaac, that He would sustain him. Thirdly, he wasn't willing to give his life, if need be, in order to retain the birthright promise.

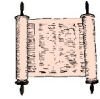
What about you, brethren? Are you going to follow an unregenerate world's example, or even yet, the example of unregenerate elders, ministers and leaders in the assembly who are willing to set the example of selling their birthright for moments of unrighteous pleasure? Think about it and fear the judgment of Yahweh!

LEAVEN

The Apostle Paul writes, "It is reported commonly *that*



Y.E.A.



there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you. For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, *concerning* him that hath so done this deed, in the name of our Sovereign Yahshua the Messiah, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Sovereign Yahshua the Messiah, to deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Sovereign Yahshua. Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even the Messiah our passover is sacrificed for us," 1 Cor. 5:1-7.

Remember, fornication is sex sins in general. Immorality is likened to leaven which, when allowed to remain in the assembly, causes the assembly to begin to become "puffed up." Sin or leaven, when allowed to remain in the assembly simply permeates the whole assembly!

It hurts me to have to say the following things because people that I love very much are caught up in these problems. Some can say that I am meddling into other's business. But, as an ordained elder in the body of the Messiah, I must speak out! I am sure that what I have already written has not endeared me to some. I am sure that what I am about to write will not endear me to many others. I don't like being the bad guy, but the Spirit has been leading me to speak out for quite some time now, irregardless of the consequences!

When any person is caught in a situation of adultery or fornication they should be dealt with in the specific manner that Paul outlines here, no matter how painful! Believe me, the ultimate consequences are much more dire! That person or those persons should remain outside the body until the fruits of repentance are obvious.

You can't cast lots in order to determine whether adulterers might be received back into an assembly. Sin is sin! Adultery is adultery! It must be repented of or the perpetrators must suffer the consequences. Repentance means that the adultery must stop!

An elder cannot commit adultery, confess repentance quickly and then allowed to come back into the assembly, and in the position of leadership at that! Repentance takes time! Fruits of repentance must be exhibited! Even David had to suffer flight, a hostile takeover and a period of time in the wilderness before he was able to return to his position as shepherd over Israel.

How can an assembly allow an adulterer to assume the position of leadership and be set up as a teacher of righteousness?

What about divorced and remarried persons who are given positions of eldership in the assembly as well as those who hold positions on a board? Has their background been thoroughly checked out? Could it be that their divorce and remarriage was of consequences other than fornication? Shouldn't the leaders actually be those whose lives have been examples of solid, faithful marriages and sexual conduct?

Paul says to purge out the leaven! Why? So that we may be a new lump! A lump that is pure, righteous and without spot. After all, the bride must make herself ready for marriage to the Lamb of Elohim!

Paul continues, "Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of **sincerity** and truth," 1 Cor. 7:8.

Look at that word "sincerity." It is translated from the Greek word "ëllikrinëia" It is defined as; from 1506; *clearness*, i.e. (by impl.) **purity**. (*Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*, Greek Lexicon) That's right! **PURITY!!!**

#1506 is the Greek word "ëllikrinës" and is defined as; from hëllë (the sun's ray) and 2919; *judged by sunlight*, i.e. tested as *genuine*.

Our faith and love of Yahweh and His principles, His law must be genuine, sincere. We are tested in these points by the type of life that we live.

Yahshua's body must be sincere, genuine, pure. We cannot allow leaven to permeate the body. Our desire must be set on the kingdom first and foremost. We do not have the luxury of allowing sin, fornication, adultery, etc. in our midst. Those who commit such acts are revealing hearts and minds set more on the flesh than the kingdom. Are we willing to become eunuchs for the kingdom's sake? That should be the requirement of those who have separated from and divorced their mates for any reason other than fornication (sex sins). Those are not my words. Those are the words of the Messiah, Himself.

TRUE LOVE

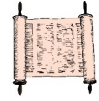
I know that it is easy to spread a distorted message of love. In too many cases we are expected and even demanded to exhibit patience and open arms to those who are caught up in the adultery problem. But what is true love? "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for **he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law**. For this, '**Thou shalt not commit adultery**, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet;' and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, 'Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.' Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore **love is the fulfilling of the law**," Ro. 13:8-10.

Love is the fulfilling of the law. If we have true love, we will not be committing adultery! After all, what does adultery do? It destroys! It destroys one's own word or vow, the covenant that he/she has made before Yahweh and witnesses to be true to one mate. It destroys the marriage covenant for Yahshua said that the only reason for divorce was for fornication (sex sins). It destroys families. What does the body of the Messiah have to do with destruction? Nothing at all!

When we encourage patience and love toward those who are committing adultery, or any other lawless deed, then we are following the example of the world which sympathizes with the offender while the victim (s) are left out in the cold to fend for themselves.



Y.E.A.



We are to love our neighbors, which means that we are to love and fulfill Yahweh's law of righteousness. While we are not to hate an offender, we certainly are not supposed to be lenient with them concerning offenses committed against Yahweh's law. Remember that sin is the transgression of the law (1 Jn. 3:4). Sin is typified as leaven (1 Cor. 5). Leaven permeates and puffs up. If we are to be a new lump of purity and truth, we must purge out the leaven. This means that offenders are to be delivered to Satan for the destruction of the flesh (1 Cor. 5:5). When the offender exhibits the fruits of repentance, then he/she may be joyfully received into fellowship again. After all, we are to first love Yahweh and then our neighbor. We exhibit love by obeying Yahweh's law, not breaking it. That is the true love that the Scriptures reveal.

This may be tough love, but that is what the Apostle Paul encourages, **"I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:** yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. **But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator,** or covetous, or an idolator, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; **with such an one no not to eat.** For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? **Do not ye judge them that are within?** But them that are without Yahweh judgeth. **Therefore put away from yourselves that wicked person,"** 1 Cor. 5:9-13.

THE WOMAN IN ADULTERY

What about the woman taken in the act of adultery spoken of in John 8:3-11? Yahshua did not condemn her did He? Should we apply the same principles in dealing with those who are committing adultery? The Pharisees brought the woman in order to tempt Yahshua so that they might accuse Him (v. 6). They reminded Yahshua that Moses judged that she should be stoned (v. 5).

But what does the law of Moses say? "If a man be found lying with a woman married to an husband, then they shall both of them die, both the man that lay with the woman, and the woman: so shalt thou put away evil from Israel. If a damsel that is a virgin be betrothed unto an husband, and a man find her in the city, and lie with her; then ye shall stone them with stones that they die; the damsel, because she cried not, being in the city; and the man, because he hath humbled his neighbour's wife: so thou shalt put away evil from among you," Dt. 22:22-24.

Notice it carefully, both the man and the woman are deemed guilty in the law of Moses. Both of them are to be stoned. But the Pharisees only brought the woman to Yahshua. They said that they caught her in the very act. Why didn't they bring the man also? The mind of the Pharisees is revealed to be evil in that they were firstly, tempting Yahshua in order to accuse Him and secondly, they weren't willing to fully prosecute the whole law. They failed to bring the man, showing that they were exhibiting favoritism in the law. They, themselves, were

not willing to fully apply the law of Moses.

Had they brought both of them, then Yahshua would have had to apply the law of Moses to the situation. Notice what He did tell the woman, however, "Go and SIN NO MORE." (v. 11.) She had sinned and the wages of sin is death.

Of course, the law also required 2 or three witnesses and none were left to accuse her. Is it possible that some of all of the Pharisees that brought her to Him were also guilty of committing the act of adultery with her?

MARRIAGE A TYPE

Marriage on the physical plane between a man and woman is a type of the marriage on the spiritual plane between Yahshua, the Lamb of Elohim, and His bride, the assembly. Physical marriage is supposed to endure until the end of our lives. If the man dies first, then the woman is free to marry again and vice versa. But the point is that marriage is a lifelong covenant relationship. Marriage to Yahshua is an eternal marriage, a covenant relationship which is to endure for all eternity.

If you are not willing and able to marry and fulfill your vows, your covenant, for the rest of your physical life, how can you be true in a marriage relationship for all eternity?

Those of us who are a part of the body of the Messiah are presently being tested to see if we are faithful. You see, we are only given an earnest of the Holy Spirit at baptism (Eph. 1:13-14). Any earnest contract is made for the purpose of holding the promise or property in abeyance until the final arrangements can be made.

Either party has the opportunity to back out of the contract before the final consummation is completed if they so desire. It is the same as an engagement for marriage. Two people may become engaged, but before the final "I do" is said, they have the opportunity to change their mind.

While marriage isn't easy (believe me, my wife and I have had our problems and we will never be problem free until death and exit from this world), it must be entered into with the frame of mind that ; this is it; there is no turning back; this is final until the day I die. It requires a great deal of work, effort, determination, giving and taking, understanding, compassion, forgiveness, etc., in order to make a marriage work. But a successful marriage is good for the man and wife, for the children, for relatives, for neighbors, for friends and even enemies. A successful marriage brings blessings. Look at the blessings the earth is going to reap when the marriage between the Lamb and his bride is finally a reality!

ADULTERY & IDOLATRY

Adultery is likened to idolatry on the spiritual plane. The covenant between Yahweh and Israel was a marriage covenant. Yahweh desired His people to serve and worship Him and only Him as their Elohim. His desire was for Israel to be true and faithful to Him.

When Israel went after other elohim, they were com-



Y.E.A.



mitting spiritual adultery against their own Creator, Elohim and Husband, Yahweh.

Here is what Yahweh judged against them, “Hear ye this, O priests; and hearken, ye house of Israel; and give ye ear, O house of the king; for judgment is toware you, because ye have been a snare on Mizpah and a net spread upon Tabor. And the revolvers are profound to make slaughter, though I have been a rebuker of them all. I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hid from Me: for now, O Ephraim, **thou committest whoredom, and Israel is defiled.** They will not frame their doings to turn unto their Elohim: for **the spirit of whoredoms is in the midst of them,** and they have not known Yahweh. And the pride of Israel doth testify to his face: therefore shall Israel and Ephraim fall in their iniquity; Judah also shall fall with them. They shall go with their flocks and with their herds to seek Yahweh; but they shall not find Him; He hath withdrawn Himself from them. **They have dealt treacherously against Yahweh: for they have begotten strange children:** now shall a month devour them with their portions. Blow ye the cornet in Gibeah, and the trumpet in Ramah: cry aloud at Beth-aven, after thee, O Benjamin. Ephraim shall be desolate in the day of rebuke: among the tribes of Israel have I made known that which shall surely be. The princes of Judah were like them that remove the bound: therefore I will pour out My wrath upon them like water,” Hos. 5:1-10.

The Hebrew word that “whoredom” is translated from is “zanah” which is defined as; a prim. root [highly *fed* and therefore *wanton*]; to *commit adultery* (usually of the female, and less often of simple fornication, rarely of involuntary ravishment); fig. to *commit idolatry* (the Jewish people being regarded as the spouse of Yahweh).

The word “strange” in “strange children” is translated from the Hebrew word “zuwr” which is defined as; a prim. root; to *turn aside* (espec. for lodging); hence to be a *foreigner, strange, profane*; spec. (act. part.) to *commit adultery*.

Thus, whoredom, adultery and idolatry stem from the same Hebrew words and carry the same idea or meaning.

TREACHERY

The Hebrew word from which “treacherously” is translated is “bagad (בָּגַד).” This Hebrew word is #898 in the Hebrew Lexicon of *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance* and is defined as; a prim. root; to *cover* (with a garment); fig. to *act covertly*; by impl. to *pillage*.

Notice the meanings very carefully. “To cover” with a garment. In other words, to shroud in secrecy. To cover means to place something on, over, or in front of, so as to conceal, protect, or close.

“To act covertly” means to conceal, hide, disguise, or be surreptitious. “Surreptitious means to take away secretly or to act in a secret, stealthy way, etc.

In every instance of Scripture where the words “treacherous” or “treacherously” appears in the English, it is translated from this word. A cover up (treachery) is

occurring even in our world today concerning the worship of the Creator.

Let’s examine this Hebrew word “bagad” (בָּגַד) to see what we can reveal or “uncover,” so to speak.

Yahweh warned through the prophet Isaiah, “But ye are they that forsake Yahweh, that forget My holy mountain, that prepare a table for **that troop**, and that furnish the drink offering unto that number,” 65:11.

“That troop” is translated from the Hebrew word “Gad” (גַּד) which is pronounced exactly like our word “God.” This Hebrew word “גַּד” is referring to a Babylonian deity of fortune. The word “גַּד” (Gad/God) is a proper noun. It should never have been translated as “that troop,” but, of course, there could have been no cover up otherwise.

The interesting thing about the Hebrew language is that simple letters have meaning such as the Hebrew letter “lamed” (ל), when placed in front of a Hebrew word, usually means “to.” The Hebrew letter “mem” (מ) can mean “from, for,” etc. The Hebrew letter “waw” (ו) usually means “and.” When the “beit” (ב) comes before a word, it usually means “in.”

Thus, the Hebrew word bagad (בָּגַד) can be translated as “in God!” This is the treachery, brethren! The very name of the Creator Yahweh has been taken out of His own works that He authored and also out of the minds of the people. It has been replaced with the word “God!” Yahweh’s people are still acting treacherously, even in today’s world. Yahweh’s people have not repented committing their spiritual harlotry and turned to Him!

When we see the phrase “**In God** We Trust” on our money, “In God” would be rendered “Bagad” (בָּגַד) in Hebrew. Thus, we are saying that we trust in treachery!

Furthermore, “that number” in Isa. 65:11 is translated from the Hebrew word “Meniy” (מֵנִי), which is another proper noun, the name of another deity which comes from a primitive root word meaning; properly, to weigh out; by implication, to allot or constitute officially; also to enumerate or enroll.

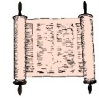
When Yahweh told Ezekiel, “And the shekel *shall be* twenty gerahs: twenty shekels, five and twenty shekels, fifteen shekels, shall be your **maneh**,” 45:12, the word “maneh” comes from the very same Hebrew root word that “Meniy” comes from. Obviously, our word English word “money” would come from this very same Hebrew word. Thus, Isa. 65:11 could read, “But ye are they that forsake Yahweh, that forget My holy mountain, that prepare a table for God (treachery), and that furnish a drink offering unto Money (that number).

Some translations render the first part of Isa. 65:11 as, “But ye are they that forsake Yahweh, they forget My holy mountain, that prepare a table for Fortune...” It is any coincidence that we call a large amount of **money** (Meniy/maneh) a **fortune** and that we describe our fortune or riches in dollar equivalents and on the dollar we read, “In God (Fortune) we trust?”

This is a tremendous cover up! It is a conspiracy of the priests, the ministers and the leaders of this world, under



Y.E.A.



the influence of Satan to cause the earth to commit spiritual whoredom, idolatry, adultery!

Yahweh is a jealous husband! He doesn't love strange children, children of adultery. He loves and desires His own children. He is seeking a wife that will be loyal and faithful to Him!

Marriage on the physical plane is the same! A man takes a wife and he desires that wife to be his and only his. She is to bear his children, not someone else's! She is to help him to build his house, not a house for another man. Of course, it works both ways. The man is supposed to be loyal and faithful to his wife and the wife to the husband.

Yahweh finally got so angry with Israel that He destroyed them and removed them from the land of promise. He was jealous and that jealousy caused wrath to come upon the children of Israel.

It is the same in marriage between a man and woman. On many occasions a husband has caught his wife in bed with another man. The anger and jealousy that wells up in the man causes him to destroy both wife and lover! Yahweh's word even justifies such action in Proverbs 7. A woman's husband has left on a journey so she seeks a lover. She entices a young ox of a man to cohabit with her. Yahweh calls such a man a fool. He warns that a dart will pierce his liver (v. 23).

I remember when if a man or wife caught their mate in the act of adultery and slew the perpetrators, it was called justifiable homicide. Yahweh's word corroborates this action, but in today's world, such actions are prohibited. Why? Because this world has forsaken the word of Yahweh. It regards the word of Yahweh as some kind of ancient poetry or ancient writings that simply are not reliable nor applicable in the world today.

We are soon going to find out whether they are applicable or not. Those who are supposed to be the bride of the Yahweh and His Messiah (Judah, Israel and the Gentiles who are called by His name), are going to experience the wrath of a husband on a rampage.

We must repent of the whoredoms, idolatry, adultery being committed against our Creator/Elohim/Husband, Yahweh and His Messiah the Sovereign Yahshua. We must repent of our fornications and adulteries that we have committed or that are being committed against the wife of our youth! As stated, while the costs may be dear in the present world, they will be much more dear and dire if we continue in the offenses.

A FINAL WORD

While some people may feel that what I have written here will bring undue pain, grief and suffering on others, remember what the Apostle Paul wrote, "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us," Ro. 8:18.

Do you believe that there is a better world coming? Do you believe that you are called to take part in that better world? True reality is that no matter the situation, whether we are happily married or unhappily married,

whether we are happily single or unhappily single, whether we are able to lawfully enjoy a life of companionship and sexual fulfillment or whether we are not, it will all come to an end. The happiness of this world and all that we can enjoy from it will come to an end. The unhappiness, pain, grief and suffering of this world will come to an end also.

I remember an ad that used to run on television. It was an ad from a beer company. They were encouraging people to go for the gusto because you only live once.

It is true that we only live this present physical life, once, it is not true that we only live once. Scripture reveals that there is going to be a resurrection wherein all are going to be judged. The world may disbelieve this, but those of us who belong to Yahweh through Yahshua the Messiah know that such is true and we should seek to arrange and live our lives accordingly.

While it hurts us very much to see others suffer, it hurts even more to have to experience a family broken because of the sin of adultery, a broken relationship, people committing lawlessness and suffering the consequences. It will hurt even greater to see many of our loved ones, acquaintances, friends, spiritual brothers and sisters, etc. to miss out on the greatest blessing one can ever imagine, the blessing of the kingdom of heaven.

We must do what it takes to keep the body of the Messiah pure, no matter the pain that it causes. We must do what it takes to deal with lawless offenders in the assembly. We can't keep nine of the commandments and offend only in one point. As we know, if we offend only in one point, we have offended the whole law.

Prepare yourselves to meet the bridegroom.



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