

# Choose to Honor God With An Affair Free Marriage

## Lesson #14

**Scripture:** Hebrews 13:4 *“Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”*

### **Introduction:**

In the forests of northern Europe, and Asia a little animal called the ermine lives. He is mostly known among us by his snow-white fur, a thing than which there is nothing more beautiful on the fur markets of the world. In some countries the state robes of judges are lined with it, the white being emblematic of purity and honor. The ermine has a peculiar pride in his white fur coat. At all hazards he protects it against anything that would spoil it.

It is said that the fur hunters take cruel advantage of the ermine's care to keep his coat clean. They do not set a snare to catch him at some unwary moment, but instead find his home, a cleft in the rock or the hollow of a decaying tree, and daub the entrance and interior with filth. Then their dogs start the chase. Frightened, the ermine flees toward his home, his only place of refuge. He finds it daubed with uncleanness, and he will not spoil his pure white coat. Rather than go into the unclean place, he faces the yelping dogs and preserves the purity of his fur at the price of his life. It is better that he be stained by blood than spoiled by uncleanness. The ermine is right purity is dearer than life. Walking With God.

### **Transitional Statement:**

Church, the world plays down the importance of marriage. Many people today don't even choose to get married they just live together so there is no commitment or tie that binds. But, God is a covenant God and has created marriage for His own glory and honor and the way we live in marriage either honors God or slings mud in His face.

### **Lesson:**

#### **I. Why do some people choose to be unfaithful to their spouses?**

- A. A really good friend of mine who has been unfaithful to their spouse in the past simply told me that Selfishness is the key problem.
  1. I sat with this Christian through a hard time of their life and listened for hours as they tried to cope with the disaster that had befallen them.
    - a. When all of a sudden this particular Christian stopped and looked up and stared into space and simply said my selfishness lead to this problem.

2. Oh it is very true that marriage problems are never one sided.
  - a. But choosing to engage in an affair comes from selfishness
    1. God certainly didn't motivate it.
    2. But Satan lures a person in by their own desires. James 1:14
3. Some verses on selfishness:
  - a. James 3:16 *"For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing."*
  - b. 1 Corinthians 10:24 *"Let no one seek his own good, but that of his neighbor."*
  - c. 2 Corinthians 5:15 *"and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf."*
4. The interesting thing about selfishness is that it not only hurts the people around you but it also hurts the very person that is trying to satisfy themselves.
  - a. And make no mistake about it....cheating on your spouse breaks hearts and tears families apart.
  - b. My friend has turned to God and God has healed their marriage.

B. Loosing focus on God is also part of the problem.

1. 2 Corinthians 10:5 *"We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,"*
  - a. A person who falls into adultery is a person who has let their thought roam free.
2. But God calls us to center our minds on Him
  - a. Colossians 3:2 *"Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth."*

C. Another problem centers around the lack of submission to the will of God.

1. A heart dragged off into an affair has lost sight of the need to transformed into the image of God through submission to His will.
2. Romans 12:1-2 *"Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the*

*renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

D. Thoughtless of others

1. Philippians 2:4 *“do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”*

E. Many times people who fall into this kind of problem have seen it modeled first hand in their own families.

1. As young people, we learn many lessons at the feet of our parents.
2. And many families have fallen prey to this situation.

F. Matthew 16:24 .....Unwilling to deny self

## **II. Choosing an affair free marriage**

A. First lines of defense

1. Older must mentor the younger
  - a. Paul mentored Timothy and Titus
  - b. 2 Timothy 1:5 Mother and Grandmother mentored Timothy
2. Elders must shepherd
  - a. Acts 20:28-30 *“Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 “I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them”*
  - b. Are we open to this type of leadership in our lives.
3. Holiness must be a high priority in a committed life
  - a. 1 Peter 1:16 *“YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”*
4. We must honor marriage
  - a. Hebrews 13:4 *“Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”*
5. Congregations must make marriage relationships a priority

a. Celebrate Anniversaries and long commitments

b. Continually rotate marriage lessons

6. Then we must desire when we are old, to look back over a life of purity

a. In honor of God.

#### B. Ways of promoting purity

1. Be deeply in love with God first.

a. Make Him your first priority

1) Placing Him on the highest place.

b. Desire with all your heart to please Him

2. One of my friends suggest the construction a collage of family pictures to keep in our wallets and purses.

3. Have loyal friends who you can talk to about anything

4. Keep accountability software on computers

5. Be on guard against emotional attacks of vulnerability

6. Make a covenant with your eyes Job 31:1

### III. Keys for a great marriage.

#### A. Commitment to faithfulness

1. Healthy marriages can only survive on the solid rock of faithfulness.

a. Of which trust is a key ingredient.

2. Working at your marriage from the vantage point that adultery is not an option....ever !

a. If we can't be faithful to our spouses....we sure won't be to God either.

#### B. We must also understanding the godly molding and shaping that happens in the marriage relationship.

1. Yes, God uses all those struggles in marriage to help mold us and shape us spiritually.

#### C. Model the relationship discussed in Eph 5

1. Love and respect.

D. Understand the covenant nature of marriage

1. Marriage is a binding agreement between two people and God.

2. And God wants us to understand the importance of making it work.

E. Also understand that your marriage either glorifies God or slings mud in His face

1. No in between.

**Conclusion:**

Living faithfulness in marriage is simply an outcome of the way we relate to God. If we are willing to cheat on our spouses...we are willing to cheat on God.

Our marriages are suppose to help our relationship with God grow.