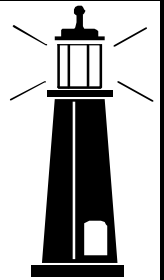


The Berryville church of Christ

Bible Beacon

"Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)



Volume 2, Issue 44

November 9th, 2003

The Sin of Adultery

Kevin Cauley

As sexual sins continue to increase in our society, we need to be ready with scriptural answers as to why these activities are indeed sin. A few weeks ago we looked at the sin of fornication. The Bible clearly condemns such sexual activity. The focus of this article will be upon adultery as a sin. Many today simply do not understand what adultery is. There have been others who have been misled by false teachers as to the definition of adultery. Let's look at what the Bible has to say about it.

The sin of adultery is first discussed in the ten commandments. Exodus 20:14 says, "Thou shalt not commit adultery." The commandment assumes that everyone knows what adultery means, but in looking through the scriptures, we see it defined in several scriptures. Leviticus 20:10 states the following: "And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death." From this passage we learn that adultery is something that a man and a woman do together. It is something that is done with someone else's spouse. Jeremiah 3:8 speaks of adultery in the same context as one who is a harlot. A harlot is a prostitute, someone who commits fornication for money. Jeremiah 29:23 confirms that adultery is something done with another's spouse: "Because they have committed villany in Israel, and have committed adultery with their neighbours' wives, and have spoken lying words in my name, which I have not commanded them; even I know, and am a witness, saith the LORD." Ezekiel 16:32 perhaps gives us the clearest definition, "But as a wife that committeth adultery, which taketh strangers instead of her husband!" So we conclude from these scriptures that adultery is fornication with someone else's spouse. This is the basic biblical definition of adultery.

Other passages that place adultery within the realm of sexual sins are: Proverbs 6:26; Hosea 4:13; 1 Corinthians 6:9; and Hebrews 13:4.

The Bible clearly teaches that adultery is a sin. 1 Corinthians 6:9 states, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind...." Those who practice it will not inherit the kingdom of heaven, i.e. they will not be saved. Hebrews 13:4 states, "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." In contrast to the honorable state of marriage, adultery is dishonorable and worthy of God's judgment. As we have seen from Leviticus 20:10, those who were caught engaging in adultery were punishable by death. That it is included in the ten commandments as a prohibition also indicates that adultery is a sin.

Many efforts have been made by many false teachers to change the definition of adultery into something that the Bible simply does not teach. There are those who have suggested that adultery is merely covenant breaking. While committing adultery is certainly being unfaithful to one's spouse and thereby involves breaking a covenant, adultery is not merely covenant breaking. This argument is set forth in an effort to justify marriage relationships between those who have been put away from their spouses for fornication (see Matthew 5:32 and Matthew 19:9). It is alleged that since adultery is merely covenant breaking all one need to do to repent is to not break any more covenants. Thus, the one guilty of this may remarry without consequence. However, such is not the biblical definition of adultery. As we have seen from the scriptures, adultery involves fornication. How does one conclude that adultery is merely covenant breaking? The argument set forth is from the Old Testament examples of the children of Israel going after idols. God called this adultery and those who claim that adultery is merely covenant breaking suggest that the word adultery as used by God did not contain any con-

cept of fornication or other sexual activity, but that they were merely practicing idolatry. Those who argue for such appeal to Jeremiah 3:6-10 as one of their proof-texts for such a definition. There are several things, however, that we should note regarding God's use of the word adultery to describe idolatry. First, it is the case that many times in the practice of idolatry, the actual sexual act of adultery was committed. Jeremiah 23:13, 14 shows this to be the case. Second, even if the sexual act is not under consideration in such passages, the use of the term is figurative. Jeremiah 3:6-10 clearly indicates this as it places God in the position of being husband to Israel. Was God literally Israel's husband? No, there was no literal fleshly relationship. God used the example of husband and wife to illustrate the unfaithfulness of the children of Israel. So it is a figurative usage of the term adultery, not a literal one. To appeal to a figurative usage of the term as a complete definition is simply a misunderstanding of the nature of figures within the Bible.

Another passage that many have used to try to support the idea that adultery is merely covenant breaking is Matthew 5:28 which says, "But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." It is alleged that since adultery in this passage is obviously not referring to a physical sexual act, then the word must have a meaning that is beyond that physical act. However, a closer examination of this verse indicates that the word IS referring to the physical act. Notice that Jesus says that adultery has been committed, but it is within the heart. What is the heart? It is the mind. The act is still the sexual act, only, it is not committed with the body, but in the mind. The mind can imagine the physical act itself. That does not take away from the definition of the word. Adultery may involve breaking a covenant, but that is not the full scope of the definition of the word in its most literal sense.

Another way in which man tries to escape from the true definition of adultery is to suggest that Jesus redefined adultery in Matthew 5:32 and Matthew 19:9. It is suggested by some that since Jesus said, "...whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery" and "...Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery," that it is not the sexual act that is adultery, but the divorcing and remarrying. Those who suggest such say that as long as one repents of divorcing and remarrying then one may continue to live in marriage with whoever that one is married at the time subsequent to multiple divorces

Kevin's Korner



Well, I guess everyone has heard the story about John and I driving to Joplin on Monday to go to a preacher's meeting that is actually schedule for tomorrow. Yes, it is true. The meeting is scheduled for the second Monday of the month, not the first. It just goes to show that preachers are subject to schedule mix ups just like anyone else. John and I certainly had a good visit, however, and we got to eat a Schlotzsky's sandwich—yum!

This past Tuesday, the Quigley's and I found out that the nursing home is looking for individuals who might be able to spend some of their time coming into the home in the morning and working with some of the residence. The lady in charge of volunteer coordination there is asking that some come in and help brush hair, paint fingernails, and other little things like that that ladies appreciate so much. If you have an hour or two per month in your schedule in which you could volunteer your time to go to the nursing home, please avail yourself of this good work. When you go there, please go to the activity area and contact the volunteer coordinator there.

This past Thursday I attended a free seminar on volunteerism at the Berryville Community Center. The seminar was hosted by professionals from the State department of volunteerism. Every year, volunteers donate a large amount of time to various different causes and it adds up to several hundred million dollars in time. This saves our communities, charities, and government money. Become a volunteer today!

Finally, this past Friday, I added a personal Bible study to our web site. Go to <http://www.thechurchofchrist.com/pbs/> and there you will find a three part study of the Bible suitable for all.

Elders: Clay Bozarth, Leon Duncan, Bruce Foster, Bill Fort, Glenn Quigley

Deacons: Ken Smith, Brent Stevens, Rusty Windle.

Preacher: Kevin Cauley 870-423-6707

Times of Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class:.....9:30 AM
 Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 AM
 Sunday Evening Worship:6:00 PM
 Ladies Bible Class:..... 10:30 AM
 Wed. Evening Bible Class:.....7:00 PM

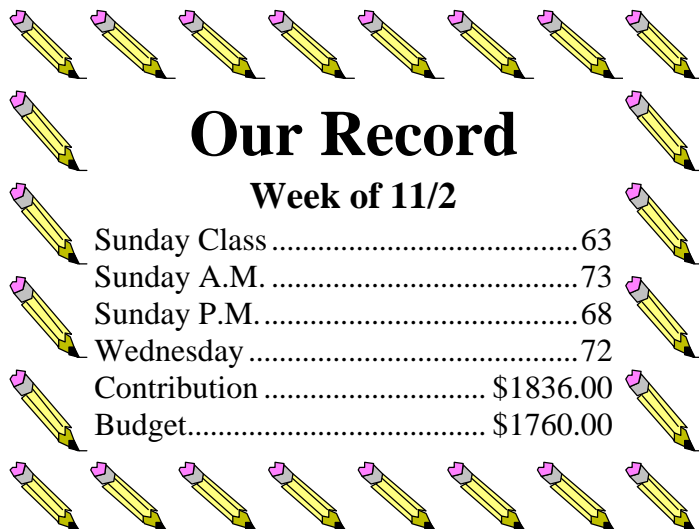
"I Just Don't Feel A Part..."

by Bill Jackson (deceased)

We all have heard it said many times down through the years, and it is always a disappointing thing. It should never be said by a child of God! He/she was added to the church by the Lord himself (Acts 2:47) upon obedience to the gospel. Wherever that Christian goes, duty demands placing membership with a local congregation, and thus becoming a part of that group of people. In the church, and thus a part; in a congregation, and thus a part.

As to "feeling a part," the attention of others might help a bit, but primarily the person himself has the larger responsibility. Some members arrive late, enter in speedily with a dash to a pew, and depart before the "Amen" finishes echoing in the building. They meet no one, greet no one, participate in nothing in the way of congregational work, and hardly learn the name of a single soul. One month after placing membership, they do not feel a part, but that will be true two years from now, unless there is an effort to change. Remember the great statement from Solomon, so appropriate here? - "A man that hath friends must show himself friendly" (Proverbs 18:24). Back to the topic, and a sum point: If I want to feel a part of the work, I can easily accomplish that. Faithfulness and participation takes care of it, if one, for God, can spare the time!

THE SOUTHWESTERNER, May 3, 1989



Our Record

Week of 11/2

Sunday Class	63
Sunday A.M.	73
Sunday P.M.	68
Wednesday	72
Contribution	\$1836.00
Budget	\$1760.00

and remarriages. However, this is not consistent with the definition of the word. Jesus specific chose the word adultery to say something regarding the legitimacy of such a marriage. That is, adultery is still the sexual sin of fornication with another's spouse. That is how it is used in the context of Matthew 5:32. That is how the word was understood in the day of Jesus as well. John 8:1-11 bears out this definition. Those who came to Jesus with the woman caught in adultery said that she had been taken "in the very act." Was this woman caught divorcing and remarrying someone else? That is obviously not what the Pharisees were accusing her of doing. She was taken in the act of fornication with another's spouse. Jesus recognized this definition and was not seeking to redefine adultery in Matthew 5:32 and Matthew 19:9. What was Jesus point in those passages? His point was that marriage does not legitimize adultery. That is, a person cannot divorce his or her spouse, marry someone else, and then claim legitimacy. That situation, according to Jesus, is still defined as adultery. We find corroboration for this in Romans 7:3. Marriage does not dissolve the situation of adultery. One does not repent of adultery by getting married to the person with whom one is committing adultery. One can only repent of adultery by dissolving the relationship with the one with whom one has been committing adultery.

Adultery is a serious sin and one which will cause one's soul to be lost eternally if one continues in an impenitent state. Adulterers will not inherit God's kingdom. Adulterers will be judged by God. Adulterers are guilty of practicing sin. Let us preach and teach the truth on this subject to all who are around us. Our society today is steeped in sexual sins including adultery. But these individuals are not lost yet. The gospel has the power to change them if they will obey it. Let us continue to preach the word to those who need it most.

Sunday's Sermons

For 11/9

Morning.....The Crucifixion of Jesus
 Scripture Matthew 27:33-36
Evening.....Q&A
 Scripture NA

News, Notes and Prayer List



- We thank God for this day and welcome all of our visitors.
- Please remember the following in your prayers: Geneva Atchley, Michael Collins, Pat Foster, Brian Guess, Curtis and Opal Hull, Rose Spencer.
- Edith Mischler is in the nursing home in Eureka Springs.
- Art Roberts and Mary Patterson are confined to their homes.
- Our regularly scheduled monthly potluck is next Sunday afternoon. Please remember this monthly event and make your plans to be with us.
- Our monthly elders and deacons meeting is also scheduled for next Sunday. If you have anything that needs to be discussed, please bring it to their attention.
- Tonight is our regular questions and answers night. Please come with Bible in hand ready to study.
- Ladies, don't forget that on Thursday, November 13th you are going to get together for an evening of literature and coffee. The meeting starts at 5:30.
- The children's home is coming to pick up food and clothing on December 1st. If you have good used clothing that is still worth wearing, they would appreciate any donation that you can make.
- Let's not forget that the last Sunday of this month is a fifth Sunday. Put this on your schedule so we can go sing at the nursing home together. There are many who notice our presence at this event. Let's make it a positive one!
- As mentioned elsewhere, there is a preachers/elders meeting in Joplin tomorrow. If you want to go, see Kevin.
- The Pantry Item for this week is Pickles.



Those to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Sunday Morning:	November 9th, 2003	November 16th, 2003
Song Leader:	Larry Elliott	Bill Fort
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Bob Moore	Clay Bozarth
Scripture:	Perry Foster	Brent Moore
Lord's Table:	John Gass	Leon Duncan
(assist)	Glenn Quigley	Ken Smith
	Bruce Foster	Larry Elliott
	Ray Duncan	Jack Gentry
Closing Prayer	Brent Stevens	Glenn Quigley
Sunday Night:		
Songs:	Bruce Foster	Glenn Williams
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Bob Moore	Rusty Windle
Scripture:	Brent Moore	Ray Duncan
Lord's Table:	George Eddings	Matt Bassing
	Rusty Windle	Dale Pinkley
Closing Prayer	Glenn Quigley	Hugh Atchley
Wednesday		
Songs:	Kevin Cauley	Glenn Quigley
Opening Prayer:	Matt Bassing	George Eddings
Invitation:	Brent Stevens	Larry Elliott
Closing Prayer:	Larry Elliott	Dale Pinkley
Monthly Assignments		
Announcements	Leon Duncan	
Worship Coordinator	Matt Bassing	
Communion Prep	Pat Quigley	Tiffany Windle
Communion Carry	Bob Moore	Glenn Williams

The "Berryville Bible Beacon" is published by the Berryville church of Christ. Please contact Kevin Cauley at work at (870) 423-3068 or at home at (870) 423-6707 or e-mail bvcc@alltel.net to contribute information.

For questions or comments, please call (870) 423-3068 or write us at:
Berryville church of Christ
909 West Trimble Street, Berryville, AR 72616