

Anatomy of an Affair (Warning Signs)

What is the “core” of the Commandment? That is, what did Jesus teach and interpret (fulfill it) regarding this command. Every sin has its root cause, its predecessor, its precursor, in thoughts and desires. No one ever had an affair without thinking about it.

- Matthew 5:27 - Jesus addresses the **root cause** of “adultery” is lust, desire, coveting
- 1 John 2:16 - For all that *is* in the world, the **lust of the** flesh, and the **lust of the** eyes, and the **pride** of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

- ❖ **Physical Attraction** – (**secret fantasies**) The eyes have it – fantasies, the desire to have to make one wise. Has God said “no”? Why has he said “no”? Why is he holding some earthly pleasure from me. Something to make me fulfilled and satisfied. Dreaming about someone can be very dangerous. But I have no control of that! No, but repeated fantasies tell what really goes on in your heart of hearts.

- ❖ **Flirtation** - (**secret fishing**) Flirting is an innocent schoolyard skill developed early in life. Chasing girls in the playground, hitting girls, tag, or teasing are all flirtations. Later it becomes smiling, flattery, winking, goo-goo eyes, joking, dressing to attract, being cute.

- ❖ **Intimacy** – (**secret conversations**) Private conversation with someone who is not your wife/husband. Exchange of personal intimacies. Having a close friend of the opposite sex is always a dangerous thing. Adulteries usually take place with someone close to you, a neighbor, best friend, close colleague. E-mail intimacies. Cell phone intimacies. Guard your relationships.

- ❖ **Declarations** – (**secret romance**) Revealing affection for a person “*I’m really crazy about like you I like being with you. I missed you. I like talking to you. You are really special to me. I wish I had married someone like you. Where were you before I got married?*” Romantic affections always precede adultery. Guard your conversations.

- ❖ **Tender Touches** (**secret fondness**) A touch can be a powerful thing, to some it is like electricity, sparks, wind on flames or embers. Promiscuously “leaning,” “hugging” “caressing,” “physical touch” or “an actual kiss,” are all extremely dangerous liaisons. The song says, “Kiss is just a kiss” - not so, a kiss is a powerful thing. A touch can be like an electric current, a thrill, a turn-on. Guard you touches.

- ❖ **Private Meetings** (**secret rendezvous**) someone is secret. Your spouse doesn’t know about it, and wouldn’t be happy if he/she did. Whether for a business meeting, a cup of coffee, or meet me in my room, can you come in for a moment? All are privacy for intimacy.

- ❖ **Sexual Liaison** (**secret affair**) at this stage one steps over the line that was drawn in the sand of his/her own heart, and gives his/her body over to physical indulgence with the object of his/her desire. Unfortunately, in our present evil age this can be same sex promiscuity as well as heterosexual.

Naked Honesty Before God

Interrogation: *Do you have an adulterous heart?*

Keep your heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life. – Proverbs 4:23

- Are your eyes wandering to greener pastures?
- Is your mind playing fantasies with someone else's wife?
- Is your mind playing out scenarios of romance, and sexual fantasies?
- Are you allowing your eyes to feast on nudity or pornographic images?

- Do you have a secret friend, intimate confidant?
- Are you holding secret conversations, e-mails, phone calls?
- Are you holding some secret meetings your spouse is not aware of?
- Are you writing/saying things you would never think of really doing?

- Who are you touching in your mind?
- Have your lips wandered from home?
- Have you touched tenderly what is not yours to touch?
- Have you been less than pure with your body?

Application: *Make a private list (spiritual inventory)*

of everyone you have or are having fantasies, romance, intimacies with ...

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Invitation: *What to do when tempted?*

1. Admit to self what is happening (inventory) (Jer. 17:9, Ps 51:4)
2. Repent and ask God's forgiveness and cleansing. (I John 1:9)
Why? Because it has already happened in your heart.
3. Flee youthful lusts (run from the sin, the object, or the sin person) - cut it off! (Matt 5:27-32) Cut off the relationship, run away, move away, quit your job, or sell your house, but get away!

*Drink waters out of your own cistern,
and running waters out of your own well. – Proverbs 5:15*