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***"AVOIDING SPIRITUAL ADULTERY ... DISCOVERING THE JOY OF FAITHFULLY LOVING GOD"***

**1) What** is spiritual adultery?

*Being unfaithful to God by an adulterous relationship with the world*.

→ God is pictured as a "husband"; Christians/church are pictured as His "bride" (Is 54:5-7; Jer 3:14, 20, 31:32; Hosea 2:2-5, 3:1, 9:1; Mt 22:2-12; I Cor 11:2-3; Eph 5:31-32; Rev 19:7)

**2) How** do we commit spiritual adultery?

♦ *Friendship with the world* (James 4:4)

♦ *Worshipping other "gods" or "idols"* (Ex 20:3-6); *trying to serve two masters* (e.g., Jesus and money -- Mt 6:24); *idolatry is a sin and considered wicked* (I Cor 6:9)

♦ *Loving the world or things in the world* (I Jn 2:15-17); *having our minds obsessed with earthly things* (Phil 3:17-21)

**3) Why should we avoid** spiritual adultery?

♦ *God is a jealous God; spiritual adultery can invoke His just wrath against us* (Hosea 2:2-5; Lk 12:42-43; Ex 34:14; Duet 9:16-19, 32:16,21; Joshua 24:19-20; Judges 2:12).

♦ *We are commanded to be faithful to God* (Joshua 24:14; Ex 20:3-6; Mt 25; Rev 2:10, 13:10)

♦ *We will "reap what we sow"* (Gal 6:7)

♦ *We will miss out on spiritual blessings here on earth and, more importantly, we will receive less reward in heaven* (I Cor 3:11-15; Mt 25; Gal 6:7)

**4) How do we avoid**  spiritual adultery?

♦ *Avoid all false "gods" and "idols"* (Ex 20:3-6; Duet 4:15-31, 6:13-15, 9:19, 28:14; Joshua 23:7-8; I Jn 5:20-21); *stop trying to serve two Masters -- serve Jesus only!* (Mt 6:24)

♦ *Set our HEARTS and MINDS on things above, not things here on earth* (Col 3:1-3; 2 Cor 4:18)

♦ *Do not be conformed to the mold of the world, but have our minds transformed by God's Word* (Rm 12:1-2). *Keep from being polluted by the world* (Jm 1:27). *Don't let anything worldly master you* (I Cor 6:12-13).

♦ *Remember that Satan is a temporary prince of the world, has deceived the world, and the world system is influenced by him* (I Jn 5:19; Jn 12:31, 14:30; 2 Cor 4:4)

♦ *Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers* (2 Cor 6: 14-18)

♦ *Learn to be in the world, but not of it* (Jn 17:14-18)

♦ *Be set free by learning and applying* ***truth*** *from God's Word* (Jn 8:31-32, 17:17)

♦ *Remember that we are only temporary visitors here on earth; our real and eternal home is in heaven* (I Pet 2:11-12; Phil 3:19-20; Eph 2:6,19)

♦ *Keep our focus on Jesus* (Heb 12:2); *remember why we are here on earth*:

• *Witnesses for God* (Acts 1:8)

• *Evangelizers\Disciplers* (Mt 28:19-20)

• *Ambassadors\Representatives of God* (2 Cor 5:20)

• *Fellow Workers with God* (2 Cor 6:1; I Cor 3:9)

• *"Light" & "Salt"* (Mt 5:13-16)

♦ *Develop a closer relationship with God*

• *Learn more about Him; spend more time with Him; learn about His great love for you and your special relationship with Him*

 **"But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:14-15)**