

~ADULTERY (380)

[Hebrew, *na- 'aph'*, Greek, *moi-kheu'o*, English, infidelity, falseness, disloyalty, treachery, betrayal, deceitfulness, faithlessness]

.. How Could One Become Guilty Of Spiritual Adultery?

- As used in the Bible, adultery generally refers to voluntary sexual intercourse by a married person with one of the opposite sex other than one's mate, or, during the time that the Mosaic Law was in effect, such intercourse by any man with a married or a betrothed woman. The Hebrew root meaning commit adultery is *na- 'aph'*, while its Greek counterpart is *moi-kheu'o*.

- In the case of the wife that commits **adultery**, she takes strangers instead of her own husband. (**Ezekiel 16:32**) Footnote
- However, I say to you that everyone divorcing his wife, except on account of fornication, makes her a subject for **adultery**, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits **adultery**. (**Matthew 5:32**) Footnote
- Certain primitive societies allow free relations within the same tribe, but promiscuity outside tribal bounds is considered **adultery**. On the history of adultery, Funk & Wagnall's Standard Dictionary of Folklore, Mythology and Legend [1949, Vol. 1, p. 15] says; It occurs in all parts of the world and though it is considered reprehensible by many cultures it has enjoyed a considerable popularity in all cultures and at all times. Monuments attest to its prevalence in ancient Egypt, Potiphar's wife, who proposed that Joseph have relations with her, was such an Egyptian.
- Now after these things it came about that the wife of his master began to raise her eyes toward Joseph and say; Lie down with me. (**Genesis 39:7**)
- So it turned out that as she spoke to Joseph day after day he never listened to her to lie alongside her, to continue with her. (**Genesis 39:10**)
- Historically as well as at present, **adultery** is generally forbidden, but penalties are seldom imposed.

- Yehowah's Law separated Israel and raised the moral status of marriage and family life to a much higher level than that of the surrounding nations. The seventh commandment of the Decalogue stated in direct, unmistakable language. You must not commit **adultery**.
- You must not commit **adultery**. (**Exodus 20:14**)
- Neither must you commit **adultery**. (**Deuteronomy 5:18**)
- You know the commandments. Do not commit **adultery**. Do not murder. Do not steal. Do not bear false witness. Honor your father and mother. (**Luke 18:20**)
- **Adulterous** invasion of another man's domain was prohibited, as were other forms of sexual misconduct.

See Also FORNICATION
See Also PROSTITUTE

- Under the Law of Moses the penalty for **adultery** was severe death for both guilty parties. In case a man is found **lying down with a woman owned by an owner**, both of them must then die together. This applied even to a betrothed woman, it being considered that she had committed **adultery** if she **had relations with a man other than the one to whom she was duly engaged**.
- In case a man is found lying down with a woman owned by an owner, both of them must then die together, the man lying down with the woman and the woman. So you must clear away what is bad out of Israel. (**Deuteronomy 22:22**)
- In case there happened to be a virgin girl engaged to a man, and a man actually found her in the city and lay down with her. (**Deuteronomy 22:2**)
- You must also bring them both out to the gate of that city and pelt them with stones, and they must die, the girl for the reason that she did not scream in the city, and the man for the reason that he humiliated the wife of his fellowman. So you must clear away what is evil from your midst. (**Deuteronomy 22:24**)
- If suspected of **adultery**, a wife had to stand trial.

- **And Yehowah went on to speak to Moses, saying; (Numbers 5:11)**
- **Speak to the sons of Israel, and you must say to them; In case any man's wife turns aside in that she does commit an act of unfaithfulness against him. (Numbers 5:12)**
- **And another man actually lies down with her and has an emission of semen, and it has been hidden from the eyes of her husband and has remained undiscovered, and she, on her part, has defiled herself but there is no witness against her, and she herself has not been caught. (Numbers 5:13)**
- **And the spirit of jealousy has passed upon him, and he has become suspicious of his wife's faithfulness, and she in fact has defiled herself, or the spirit of jealousy has passed upon him, and he has become suspicious of his wife's faithfulness, but she in fact has not defiled herself. (Numbers 5:14)**
- **Then the man must bring his wife to the priest and bring her offering along with her, a tenth of an ephah of barley flour. He must not pour oil upon it nor put frankincense upon it, because it is a grain offering of jealousy, a memorial grain offering bringing error to remembrance. (Numbers 5:15)**
- **And the priest must bring her forward and make her stand before Yehowah. (Numbers 5:16)**
- **And the priest must take holy water in an earthenware vessel, and the priest will take some of the dust that happens to be on the floor of the tabernacle, and he must put it in the water. (Numbers 5:17)**
- **And the priest must make the woman stand before Yehowah and loosen the hair of the woman's head and put upon her palms the memorial grain offering, that is, the grain offering of jealousy, and in the hand of the priest there should be the bitter water that brings a curse. (Numbers 5:18)**
- **And the priest must make her swear, and he must say to the woman; If no man has lain down with you and if while under your husband you have not turned aside in any uncleanness, be free of the effect of this bitter water that brings a curse. (Numbers 5:19)**

- But you, in case you have turned aside while under your husband and in case you have defiled yourself and some man has put in you his seminal emission, besides your husband. (**Numbers 5:20**)
- The priest must now make the woman swear with an oath involving cursing, and the priest must say to the woman; May Yehowah set you for a cursing and an oath in the midst of your people by Yehowah's letting your thigh fall away, and your belly swell. (**Numbers 5:21**)
- And this water that brings a curse must enter into your intestines to cause your belly to swell and the thigh to fall away. To this the woman must say; Amen! Amen! (**Numbers 5:22**)
- And the priest must write these cursings in the book and must wipe them out into the bitter water. (**Numbers 5:23**)
- And he must make the woman drink the bitter water that brings a curse, and the water that brings a curse must enter into her as something bitter. (**Numbers 5:24**)
- And the priest must take the grain offering of jealousy from the woman's hand and wave the grain offering to and fro before Yehowah, and he must bring it near the altar. (**Numbers 5:25**)
- And the priest must grasp some of the grain offering as a remembrancer of it and must make it smoke upon the altar, and afterward he will make the woman drink the water. (**Numbers 5:26**)
- When he has made her drink the water, it must also occur that if she has defiled herself in that she committed an act of unfaithfulness toward her husband, the water that brings a curse must then enter into her as something bitter, and her belly must swell, and her thigh must fall away, and the woman must become a cursing in among her people. (**Numbers 5:27**)
- However, if the woman has not defiled herself but she is clean, she must then be free from such punishment, and she must be made pregnant with semen. (**Numbers 5:28**)
- This is the Law about jealousy, where a woman may turn aside while under her husband, and she does defile herself. (**Numbers**

5:29)

- Or in the case of a man where the spirit of jealousy may pass upon him, and he does suspect his wife of unfaithfulness, and he must make the wife stand before Yehowah, and the priest must carry out toward her all this Law. (**Numbers 5:30**)
- And the man must be innocent of error, but that wife will answer for her error. (**Numbers 5:31**)

See Also THIGH

- Christians, though not under Mosaic Law, must also refrain from **adultery**. For the Law code, You must not commit **adultery**, is summed up in this word, namely: You must love your neighbor as yourself. There can be no hypocrisy in this matter.
- For the Law code, you must not commit **adultery**, you must not murder, you must not steal, you must not covet, and whatever other commandment there is, is summed up in this word, namely: You must love your neighbor as yourself. (**Romans 13:9**)
- You, the one saying; Do not commit **adultery**. Do you commit adultery? You, the one expressing abhorrence of the idols. Do you rob temples? (**Romans 2:22**)
- In teaching Bible principles, Jesus raised the moral standard still higher for Christians. He broadened out the matter of **adultery**, saying it was not limited to sexual contact a man might have with a woman not his mate. Everyone that **keeps on looking at a woman so as to have a passion for her** has already committed **adultery** with her in his heart. Such men are among those who have eyes full of **adultery**.
- You heard that it was said: You must not commit **adultery**. (**Matthew 5:27**)
- But I say to you that everyone that keeps on looking at a woman so as to have a passion for her has already committed **adultery** with her in his heart. (**Matthew 5:28**)
- They have eyes full of **adultery** and unable to desist from sin, and they entice unsteady souls. They have a heart trained in covetousness. They are accursed children. (**2 Peter 2:14**)

- Jesus also pointed out that if a divorce was obtained by either husband or wife, except on the ground of fornication **Greek, *por-nei'a***, the remarriage of either one would constitute **adultery**. Even a single man who took such a divorced woman as his wife would be guilty of **adultery**.
- However, I say to you that everyone divorcing his wife, except on account of fornication, makes her a subject for **adultery**, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits **adultery**. (**Matthew 5:32**)
- I say to you that whoever divorces his wife, except on the ground of fornication, and marries another commits **adultery**. (**Matthew 19:9**)
- And he said to them; Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits **adultery** against her. (**Mark 10:11**)
- And if ever a woman, after divorcing her husband, marries another, she commits **adultery**. (**Mark 10:12**)
- Everyone that divorces his wife and marries another commits **adultery**, and he that marries a woman divorced from a husband commits **adultery**. (**Luke 16:18**)
- For instance, a married woman is bound by Law to her husband while he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is discharged from the Law of her husband. (**Romans 7:2**)
- So, then, while her husband is living, she would be styled an adulteress if she became another man's. But if her husband dies, she is free from his law, so that she is not an **adulteress** if she becomes another man's. (**Romans 7:3**)
- **Adultery** is actually sin against God.
- There is no one greater in this house than I am, and he has not withheld from me anything at all except you, because you are his wife. So how could I commit this great badness and actually **sin against God**? (**Genesis 39:9**)
- Yehowah will judge those guilty of **adultery**, and none who persist in such a course will inherit God's kingdom.

- And I will come near to you people for the judgment, and I will become a speedy witness against the sorcerers, and against the **adulterers**, and against those swearing falsely, and against those acting fraudulently with the wages of a wage worker, with the widow and with the fatherless boy, and those turning away the alien resident, while they have not feared me, Yehowah of armies has said. (**Malachi 3:5**)
- What! Do you not know that unrighteous persons will not inherit God's kingdom? Do not be misled. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor **adulterers**, nor men kept for unnatural purposes, nor men who lie with men. (**1 Corinthians 6:9**)
- Nor thieves, nor greedy persons, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit God's kingdom. (**1 Corinthians 6:10**)
- Let marriage be honorable among all, and the marriage bed be without defilement, for God will judge fornicators and **adulterers**. (**Hebrews 13:4**)
- Anyone committing **adultery** with a woman is in want of heart, he that does it is bringing his own soul to ruin. (**Proverbs 6:32**)
- A plague and dishonor he will find, and his reproach itself will not be wiped out. (**Proverbs 6:33**)
- For the rage of an able-bodied man is jealousy, and he will not show compassion in the day of vengeance. (**Proverbs 6:34**)
- He will have no consideration for any sort of ransom, neither will he show willingness, no matter how large you make the present. (**Proverbs 6:35**)

•• How Could One Become Guilty Of Spiritual Adultery?

- In a spiritual sense, **adultery** denotes unfaithfulness to Yehowah on the part of those who are joined to him in a covenant. Natural Israel in the Law covenant was, therefore, guilty of **spiritual adultery** because of false religious practices, some of which included sex-worship rites and disregard for the seventh commandment.
- When I got to see that, for the very reason that unfaithful Israel had committed **adultery**, I sent her away and proceeded to give

- the certificate of her full divorce to her, yet treacherously dealing Judah her sister did not become afraid, but she herself also began to go and commit prostitution. (**Jeremiah 3:8**)
- And her prostitution occurred because of her frivolous view, and she kept polluting the land and committing **adultery** with stones and with trees. (**Jeremiah 3:9**)
 - How can I forgive you for this very thing? Your own sons have left me, and they keep swearing by what is no God. And I kept satisfying them, but they continued committing **adultery**, and to the house of a prostitute woman they go in troops. (**Jeremiah 5:7**)
 - Horses seized with sexual heat, having strong testicles, they have become. They **neigh each one to the wife of his companion**. (**Jeremiah 5:8**)
 - O that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of travelers! Then I would leave my people and go away from them, for all of them are **adulterers**, a solemn assembly of **treacherous dealers**. (**Jeremiah 9:2**)
 - Your acts of **adultery** and your neighings, your loose conduct in prostitution. Upon the hills, in the field, I have seen your disgusting things. Woe to you, O Jerusalem! You cannot be clean, after how much longer? (**Jeremiah 13:27**)
 - For it is with **adulterers** that the land has become full. For because of the curse the land has gone to mourning, the pasture grounds of the wilderness have dried up, and their course of action proves to be bad, and their mightiness is not right. (**Jeremiah 23:10**)
 - All of them are **adulterers**, like a furnace set burning by a baker, who ceases poking after kneading dough until it is leavened. (**Hosea 7:4**)
 - For similar reasons Jesus denounced as **adulterous** the generation of Jews in his day.
 - In reply he said to them; A wicked and **adulterous** generation keeps on seeking for a sign, but no sign will be given it except the sign of Jonah the prophet. (**Matthew 12:39**)

- For whoever becomes ashamed of me and my words in this **adulterous** and sinful generation, the Son of man will also be ashamed of him when he arrives in the glory of his Father with the holy angels. (**Mark 8:38**)
- Likewise today, if Christians who are dedicated to Yehowah and who are in the New Covenant defile themselves with the present system of things, they commit **spiritual adultery**.
- **Adulteresses**, do you not know that the friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever, therefore, wants to be a friend of the world is constituting himself an **enemy of God**. (**James 4:4**)