

MARRIAGE PART V
ADULTERY, SEDUCTION AND DEATH
OCTOBER 16-17, 2021

INTRODUCTION

- More than ever, we don't do relationships very well.
- Especially at the hardest place for relationships, at home.
- This week we will talk about one of the most painful things we can ever discuss...adultery.

I. ALL RELATIONSHIPS ARE BUILT ON TRUST

- Trust is the key ingredient for healthy relationships.
- Trust creates safety, security and openness.
- But trust inherently comes with risk of betrayal.
- Matthew 26:21-25, "Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me."... "but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born."
- Trust violations have happened since humans have sinned.
- People who trust others are more able to detect who to trust and who not to trust.
- Qualities in people to trust;
1. Honesty, 2. Transparency, 3. Accountability,
4. Ethical, 5. Alliance

II. BETRAYAL KILLS

- Betrayal = the exposing or deceiving of ones who formerly trusted you
- Proverbs 25:9-10 NLT, "...don't betray another person's secret. You will never regain your good reputation."
- Betrayal thrives in environments of low trust.
- The great betrayal is sexual...an affair.
- Affairs begin when people justify wrong thinking and give themselves permission to cross small boundaries.
- I Corinthians 6:13-20, "...For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body...your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit...you must honor God with your body."

III. THE ANATOMY OF AN AFFAIR

- Secrets destroy trust.
- Deception by omission becomes part of the lifestyle.
- Walls are breached and another person is allowed into the circle.
- Permission is given to themselves to cross boundaries.
- Commitments are made conditional.
- Lies and deception – lies here begin with omission
- Coalitions with others against the partner.
- Disrespect, asserting of superiority over the partner takes place. Breaking vows and sacred promises.

IV. PREVENTING BETRAYAL

- Cherishing is the key to trust that works – Ephesians 5
- Respect and trust empower people and make relationships work.
- I Peter 2:17 NLT, "Show respect to all people."
- Those who cherish others are less likely to be destructive in conflict.
- Proverbs 31:10-12 - These people will sacrifice for the other...their relationship is sacred to them.

V. HEALING FROM BETRAYALS

- Can you heal from trust betrayals? Yes, but it is tough.
- Is it foolish to forgive? No not if the person is repentant, humbled, remorseful.
- There is a difference between a regrettable incident and a lifestyle of betrayal.
- If it is an incident it will be followed by contrition, remorse, and sorrow there is real possibility for healing.
- II Corinthians 7:10, "For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance..."
- A contract or covenant has been broken in an affair... the relationship must be rebuilt from the ground up.

CLOSE

- Betrayal is often an outcome of neglect.