



The Issue of Marital Fidelity

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Though we've come a long way from the days of Hawthorne's "Scarlet Letter," the importance of faithfulness in a healthy marriage is no less significant. Despite statistics that indicate the widespread experience of open marriage and free sexual liaisons, infidelity is still the number one cause of the breakup of marriages. Though many people reject outright the constraints of biblical morality, their own experiences and emotions demonstrate the practical relevance of God's timeless laws.

■ **Current Conditions**

■ **Basic Definitions**

Fidelity: *Faithful devotion to one's obligations or vows.*

Adultery: *A sexual relationship between two people when one or both are married to someone else.*

■ **Findings of Fact**

1. God emphasizes fidelity in relation to your character.
Matthew 23:23
2. God emphasizes fidelity in relation to your vows before Him.
Ecclesiastes 5:2,4
3. God emphasizes fidelity in relation to your marriage vows.
Malachi 2:13-15
4. God emphasizes fidelity in relation to your sexual practices.
Proverbs 5:15-20
5. God emphasizes fidelity in the penalty for adultery.
Leviticus 20:10
6. God emphasizes forgiveness in the restoration of adulterers.
John 8:1-11

■ **Specific Instructions**

1. Recognize the impact of adultery on people.
Genesis 39:8-9a
2. Recall the importance of fidelity to God.
Genesis 39:9b
3. Reject the invitation to abandon your principles.
Genesis 39:10
4. Remove yourself from the temptation to weaken your resolve.
Genesis 39:11-12