

Thou Shalt *Not* Commit *ADULTERY!*

This world's marriage counsellors advise: "A little adultery is good for your marriage!" We know better! No breaking of the seventh commandment—before or after marriage—is good in any way. Read this article and find out WHY it is wrong and what you can do about it!

by Bill McDowell

JIM MOORE was an average man. He had learned early to be satisfied with the middle ground of life. High school found him only slightly above the fifty percentile, and he just managed to get a football letter in his senior year.

He earned everything the hard way, but had satisfaction in what he did. Graduating in 1950, and with a plodding but patriotic spirit, he joined the Navy and soon saw service in the Korean crisis. Grinding away at his Navy duties, he managed to reach the rank of petty officer before honorable discharge in 1954.

That summer of 1954, Jim got a secure job with the United States Post Office. He was twenty-two. His brand of success was within his grasp! And to top it off, his life suddenly took an exciting turn — Mary Schmidt.

Mary had been his secret high school love. Considered by most to be a little too wild, Mary was perfect in Jim's eyes. He'd never had a real date in high school, but he had certainly been lots of places with Mary, only in his fantasy dreams. Even in the Navy, he had not gone out like the others. At twenty-two, he was a male oddity — a *virgin!*

To find Mary still at home and *still single* was almost too much to hope for! It took great courage to ask her for that first date. Her unexpected acceptance stunned him.

By Thanksgiving, they were going steady. Three days before Christmas, Mary Schmidt became *Mrs. James Moore* — Jim actually pinched himself during the ceremony to be sure he was awake.

With his savings and the GI Bill, Jim and Mary returned from their honeymoon to move into a neat, attractive bungalow. Eleven months later, little Mary arrived, equipped with her mother's same pert nose and deep blue eyes. Although she had periods of restlessness, Mary was trying hard and made Jim a good wife. Jimmy's birth, two years later, only made life more perfect!

Everything Jim did was for his family! He even took a second job to provide the extra things he knew Mary enjoyed. By 1960, he was able to buy a second car for Mary and still have money in the bank! Little Mary was now five years old and Jimmy was three. How he enjoyed Jimmy's cuddliness and Mary's pixy beauty!

Lately, though, his wife had shown signs of increased restlessness and unusual moodiness. He had bought her a new coat with a fur collar to try to make up for any lacks he may have had, but it didn't seem to help much. He just couldn't seem to get close to her anymore.

It had been one of those bad weekends when nothing went right and Mary seemed particularly unresponsive. Monday morning, Jim's deepening concern caused him to do something he had never done before. He did not go to work.

Instead, he went directly to the florist and bought the most beautiful bouquet of roses they had. In order to surprise Mary, he did not drive up to the house, but parked around the block and came through the alley to the back door. He was happy to find she was not in the kitchen to see him and spoil the surprise.

Passing quietly through the hallway and toward the living room, his ears began to pick up noises his mind could not believe, *would not believe!* His pulse racing, his heart in his throat, and his stomach a tight knot, he forced himself to take those extra steps.

The tragic scene that greeted him was one no husband should *ever* see!

There was Mary on the living room couch in the act of *ADULTERY with a stranger!*

Jim could not speak, he could not move.

A stranger, in one moment, had totally shattered *all* his hopes and dreams of a lifetime! The life he had painstakingly built no longer was. The mother of his children, the woman of his dreams, his lifetime partner now lay spoiled, damaged, sullied before his eyes. *He just could not bring himself to believe it!*

Before he could move, Mary saw him!

"WHAT are *you* doing here?" she hissed through clinched teeth! No remorse, only anger and rage that he had returned home unexpectedly! She had secretly been committing adultery for some time. Her love for Jim had faded beyond repair. She couldn't stand him, and was going to ask for a divorce anyway. This only brought it more quickly to a head.

Little Mary and little Jimmy were only pawns in what followed. Their lives became split and damaged in the tragic aftermath of this ruined family, this broken home, this shattered union! All Jim had ever dreamed of was no more.

Mary has been married twice since;

Jim remarried once. Mary took the children and Jim has visiting rights. Mary has two more children, and has lost her youthful vigor and beauty. She doesn't realize why, but she never seems to have peace or satisfaction anymore. Jim had no more children, but his eyes betray a cloud of disillusionment and the pain of loneliness and unhappiness.

ALL BECAUSE OF THE SIN OF ADULTERY!!

This story of Jim and Mary is true. Only the names and certain facts are altered to hide their identities. The tragedy is their story only mirrors what literally thousands of Americans and Britons suffer each year! The records, the movies, national leaders, even the clergy claim it is all right — even *good* — to commit *fornication* or *adultery*. But they never tell the stories of the Jim's and Mary's across the country!

Though some few might admit the Bible *says* adultery is wrong, almost no one understands *WHY* it is so wrong, *WHY* God forbids it, and what the irrevocable, tragic consequences are!

Why is Adultery Wrong?

God did not forbid fornication and adultery simply because He wanted to be cruel to us! He knew the inevitable result and wants us to be protected from its horrors.

Today's so-called "wise" people claim there is no damage in promiscuity, but the men of old knew better! Notice what the patriarch Job has to say, "For this [adultery] is an HEINOUS CRIME; yea, it is an iniquity to be punished by the judges. For it is a *fire* that consumeth to *destruction*, and would root out all mine increase" (Job 31:11-21).

What's that? "Root out all mine increase?" "Heinous *crime*?" "Fire?" "Destruction?" Surely a little "extra-curricular fun" couldn't bring on all that! *You'd better believe it!!*

"Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned? So, he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever touches her

shall not be innocent [Or, "go unpunished"—margin]" (Prov. 6:27-29).

Those who blindly commit adultery (or fornication) have no idea of the penalties that go with it! They cannot understand how *automatic* God's Law is and how surely they *will receive their punishment!* God continues, "... the adulteress preys upon your very *life*" (Prov. 6:26 — *Moffatt*).

"But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding" (Prov. 6:32). Any man who thoughtlessly takes another man's wife truly does lack understanding! He doesn't understand that he is dragging all the hopes and dreams of that man (and his wife) through all the mud and slime of human filth and degradation. He is ruining all his hopes and desires, destroying a family, besmirching all that is good and tearing down plans, dreams and desires of a lifetime — just what happened to Jim and Mary Moore!

Verse 32 continues, "... he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul." He "destroys his soul" in two ways — first in what the offended husband will do to him and second, what he does to himself. "For jealousy is the RAGE of a man: therefore he *will not spare* in the day of vengeance. He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts" (verses 34-35).

Once a woman is robbed of her virtue, once the offense has been made, it can never be taken back! How can you pay a man for ruining his life and future? How can you placate a man whose dreams have been shattered? How can you restore to a man his spoiled and besmirched wife? You can't!! The adulterer always stands the risk of having his life taken through the unrequited vengeance of a hurt and wronged husband! Any man who can't see and understand this *lacks understanding!*

The Personal Damage

How does he "destroy his own soul"? Notice how Job describes the adulterer: "The eye also of the adulterer waiteth for the twilight, saying, No eye shall see me; and disguises his face . . . for the morning is to them even as the shadow

of death: if one know them, they are in the *terrors* of the shadow of death. He is swift as the waters . . . he beholdeth not the way of the vineyards . . . shall be no more remembered; and wickedness shall be broken as a tree" (Job 24:15-20).

The adulterer learns to sneak and be "shifty." His character becomes untrustworthy. He marks his female targets and tries to avoid being seen. If he is seen, he "beholds not the way of the vineyard" — runs and crashes through the fields and fences to escape what he knows to be his fate.

The adulterer is an untrustworthy person — even to himself!

But that isn't all! Notice what Paul says, "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man does is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth *against his OWN body*" (I Cor. 6:18). How can this be? A man's wife is his own flesh — *his own body* (Eph 5:28). Any man who commits fornication or adultery is sinning against his wife, or future wife, destroying possibilities for future happiness by his thoughtless, senseless act!

He doesn't realize there is an automatic law in effect that his mind and conscience cannot supersede! He can't understand how his unfaithfulness will make it so difficult to truly love his wife and be true to her. What kind of ardor can he have for his wife when his mind will not relinquish memories of Jane, or Beth, or Mary — girls with whom he has shared intimacies which should be reserved only for his wife? How can his wife know she is having to compete with past memories irrevocably stored up in her husband's mind — memories he should never have?

He sins against his own wife and himself. "Whoredom and wine and new wine take away the *heart* ("understanding" — margin)" (Hos. 4:11). His understanding of how to have true happiness diminishes with every illicit sex act! "Give not your strength unto women, nor your ways to that which destroys kings!" (Prov. 31:3.)

How tragically true! The wisest man on earth had to find this out — *the hard*

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panacea for the world's ills. Just adding worms and stirring isn't going to produce fertile, productive soil overnight. IT TAKES FAR MORE THAN THAT! It requires an understanding of God's laws to properly use this earth. It calls for obedience to those laws for man to be *happy and healthy*.

The Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, Binay Sen, said: "Either we take the fullest measures both to *raise productivity* and stabilize population growth, or we face a disaster of UNPRECEDENTED MAGNITUDE . . . Problems of *hunger and malnutrition* which afflict more than half the world's population . . . POSE A SERIOUS THREAT TO PEACE."

Mankind now stands on the brink of nuclear holocaust which could be precipitated by the food problems of the world. Raymond Ewell, former advisor to the Government of India, said: "The world is on the threshold of THE BIGGEST FAMINE IN HISTORY." When people are hungry, they are going to use any method necessary to meet and fill that hunger. Even if it means war!

What have we proven? Only that there are *simple*, God-ordained ways for our soil to be kept fertile and productive. Adam was put on this earth and told to dress it and keep it (Gen. 2:15). Neither he nor his ancestors were willing to understand and obey the simple principles of God. As a result, lands which once were productive and fruitful have become barren. The earth's ability to support a burgeoning populace has been diminished. And mankind in all its knowledge wonders why.

No, earthworms alone will *never* solve the soil problems of the world. No other single method will solve any of the problems of the world. It takes all the principles of God working together to give man the happiness and productivity he desires.

The earthworm is just one link in the chain which will help you enjoy and profit from your soil. Wriggling and dirt-encrusted, yes. But still a marvelous testimony to the wisdom and love of your Creator who provides for our every need if we will obey Him.

Readers Say . . .

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week was more than I had expected. My take home pay was the amount that I figured would be my gross!"

Arthur W. B.,
Denver, Colorado

Excess Second Tithe

"This is the second time I've sent

excess second tithes to headquarters and I'll still have more to turn in at the Feast site. When we started on this third tithe year, we couldn't see how we would ever manage; now with our income almost doubled, we wonder how we could have ever doubted. We are sorry to see our third tithe year ending."

Mr. and Mrs. Crawford L. K.,
Clifton Springs, New York

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way! Solomon had wisdom, understanding, knowledge — all any man could ask for — plus untold riches (I Kings 3: 12-13). He set his hand to try things out by his own personal experience. His sad results are recorded in the Book of Ecclesiastes.

Against all of God's warnings, Solomon finally accumulated SEVEN HUNDRED wives and THREE HUNDRED concubines — ONE THOUSAND women! He had the best-looking, the best-built, the most intelligent, the smoothest-skinned, the most voluptuous women in the land. He no doubt also had women of just about every race! He tried EVERYTHING he could think of.

But what happened? "...and his wives turned away his *heart*. For it came to pass, when Solomon was *old*, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his *heart was not perfect* with the Lord His God, as was the heart of David his father" (I Kings 11:3-4). Remember Hosea 4:11? "WHOREDOM and wine and new wine take away the HEART!"

Though he had been given *special* wisdom and understanding (*heart*) above all men, by the time he was an old man, he had dissipated most of it away. His mind was blinded to God and God's ways. He increased wretchedness in the land. His women persuaded him to build monuments and sex symbols to their individual gods — to Solomon's shame and the desecration of the land and people of God!

Solomon may even have missed his chance for eternal life by his bizarre

addiction to illicit sex! This was the one major vice he had which removed his exceptional understanding from him. No man with real understanding would erect pagan temples and worship other gods — being led about by illicit bed partners! "A good *understanding* have all they that *do his commandments*" (Psalm 111:10).

Solomon just happened to be able to do what every man or woman WOULD DO — if they were able — once that person begins to fornicate or commit adultery! He found an *INSATIABLE* desire for MORE — but he could NEVER be really *satisfied!*

Israel's Example!

Israel was God's wife. But when she went after other gods, she committed adultery against Him! "And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and *committed adultery* with stones and stocks [as well as *other nations*]" (Jer. 3:9). Jeremiah continues, "Turn, O backsliding children, saith the Lord; for I am MARRIED unto you . . . Surely as a WIFE treacherously departeth from her HUSBAND, SO have ye dealt with me, O House of Israel" (verses 14, 20).

But God saw it just the way Jim Moore saw it. He had rescued Israel from Egypt, cleaned her up as a beautiful, lovely bride and *married* her (Ezek. 16:1-14). But with all her blessings, she turned against God and became unfaithful! "But thou didst trust in thine own beauty, and playedst the harlot because of the renown, and pouredst out

thy fornications *on everyone that passed by*, HIS it was! . . . and hast opened thy feet to every one that passed by, and MULTIPLIED thy whorcdoms" (verses 15, 25). How much clearer can it be?

She totally rejected God and spurned His advances — *scorning His true love for the false!* "Thou has played the whore also with the Assyrians [Modern Germany], because thou wast UNSATIABLE; yea, thou played the harlot with them, and yet couldest NOT be SATISFIED" (verse 28).

Do you see what happened? Once she started committing adultery, Israel COULD NOT BE SATISFIED. With all his wisdom, Solomon could never be satisfied with a thousand women! Mary could never again be really satisfied with only Jim! If YOU have ever committed fornication, or adultery, *think about it!* Did it ever SATISFY you? Was ONE time ever enough? No! LUST SNOWBALLS!

There is no end to it! If you have never committed fornication or adultery, BE THANKFUL! But most of you reading these words HAVE committed adultery! You have suffered in your marriage or marriages and perhaps never knew why. Now you can know. You have dragged your life through the mud of human filth, you have fostered an unstable character and you have opened "Pandora's Box" of INSATIABLE lust and illicit desire!

What Can You Do?

Solomon, in all his wisdom, KNEW what to do, but did not do it! He continued his race to destruction. He did not have a HEART like his father, David. His heart was *destroyed* by adulteries!! This was the major difference between David and Solomon. David knew what to do and he did it! David's heart had not turned from God as Solomon's!

He realized his deep need for REPENTANCE from *his* heinous crime of adultery! When God's prophet, Nathan, made him realize what he had done with Bathsheba, David was truly BROKEN up about it and took DRASTIC ACTION. He realized what the penalties were and took steps to CHANGE!

David's Repentance

David's repentance was complete. He shared the whole blame, himself. He

was not like Sigmund Freud, who felt that NO ONE is guilty of personally committing sin — that man is just an innocent victim of environmental circumstances!

Notice how David felt, "For I ACKNOWLEDGE *my* transgression: and *my sin* is EVER before me!" (Psalm 51:3.) He recognized that he was the guilty one, that he had been a sinner since *birth* (vs. 5). He laid it on the line, taking all the blame before God! He knew He had to be *cleaned* and purged by God to be really clean (vs. 7).

But, most important, he knew what God really wanted! "For thou desirest NOT sacrifice; else would I give it: Thou delightest NOT in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a *broken spirit: a broken and contrite HEART*" (verses 16-17).

If you have been involved in the wretchedness of ADULTERY, you are in the same shoes with David, Solomon, Israel and the Moores. Will you be like David, or like Solomon? Will you let it become an obsession with you and permeate your very being as Solomon did? Will you mull it over in your mind and linger over the "pleasures of sin for a *moment*" and let it hatch into reality? Will you look on women (or men) to LUST after them until you finally commit the actual SIN again? Will you allow your strength, your energies, your proper feelings, your chances for true happiness and your understanding to be ripped away from you by your senseless thoughts and actions?

Or will you be like David, who SUCCEEDED, and QUALIFIED to be a great *ruler* in God's Kingdom? If you really WANT to do RIGHT in God's sight, and have happiness and the real JOY of living God wants you to have, *be like David!* Have a *heart* like David's! See it as he saw it! Think as he thought! Feel as he felt! REPENT like *he* repented!

Take God's way, the *best* way. Follow David's example. Use Psalm 51 as a guideline to *help* you change and get started toward real help — a future in the World Tomorrow, as well as happiness and joy yet in this life!

 **the ENVOY**

Take another look at that curious little "bug" which appears above in our headline! ● We're spotting it throughout this year's edition of the ENVOY to graphically symbolize the theme of the book, "Tomorrow's Education — Today." ● For a personal, firsthand glimpse of happy young people actually learning and using — now, today — the True Values which will be taught and lived in the world tomorrow, be sure to order your own copy of the 1967-1968 ENVOY. ● Because the ENVOY was printed late this year and not generally available at the Festival, we are extending the deadline date for ordering. Please do so as soon as possible. ● Remember, in past years there have not been enough ENVOYs to fill the many late orders, so assure yourself a copy by promptly returning the handy enclosed order form. ● Once again, a \$5.00 bill mailed to us here in Pasadena, 35 shillings sent to our staff in England, or \$5.00 Australian sent to our Sydney office will reserve your copy of the annual pictorial story of Ambassador College for this past school year.

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