

# Do Not Commit Adultery



**Bro. Ricky Cunningham**  
**Exodus 20:14**

Please remember, so that you understand the context of these commandments, God has led Israel out of Egypt, he's brought them through the first part of the wilderness, he has them at Mount Sinai, and he is entering into a covenant with them. He is giving them his law so that they understand how holy he is and how holy they are to be when they go into the land because his primary purpose of bringing them out of Egypt, through the wilderness, and into the promise land is once they get into the promise land they will reveal to the nations around them that they are his people by revealing his glory. So, God's ultimate purpose for Israel is to reveal his glory among the pagan nations and we are on that seventh commandment believing fully it still has full application and full meaning for us today even though we aren't the Old Testament people of God. We are the New Testament people of God.

## **Scripture:**

**Exodus 20:14 You shall not commit adultery.**

As a congregation, I want you to say to me, "Brother Ricky, please, you shall not commit adultery." Thank you! Now, can I say to you as your pastor, "You better not ever, ever, ever, ever from this day forward, I don't know what your past has been, but you better not ever commit adultery."

Thank you for understanding this morning that this content is for us as adults. Please know that this morning I speak not only as a teacher of God's word, but as a pastor. It breaks my heart sometimes to have to do what I have to do. I believe if you were where I was and had seen what I had seen and what this sin does in the life of families, you'd hold the same position that I hold. If you don't hold the position that I hold, just be thankful that you've not seen what I've seen with this seventh commandment.

God's getting ready to take Israel into the promise land and he says guys, if you enter into a covenant with me, just know this. There is to be no adultery among my people in the land None at all! I haven't done this in a while, but as I began to study through what all of scripture teaches about this subject, the new and the old together, we are going to look at four things about adultery this morning.

### **1. The prohibition of adultery**

### **2. The punishment of adultery**

### **3. The pain of adultery**

### **4. The prevention of adultery**

I think we all know what adultery is. We are adults. Adultery basically is when you as a married person has sex and a sexual relationship outside of your marriage covenant. If your partner in sex is not your husband or your wife then you have committed adultery. God doesn't want adultery among his people. Why? Because of his view of family, because of his view of the home, and because of the sanctity of marriage, God says don't commit adultery because he fully understands what adultery does not only in the life who commits adultery, but especially in the life of the one who is on the other end and is being sinned against. So, God prohibits it. You and I live in a culture in which sex is presented to us totally outside of the marriage relationship and yet God says no adultery. The reason God

doesn't want adultery is because God holds marriage sacred. He knows that marriage relationship is built on a covenant relationship between a husband and a wife and he knows what adultery will do to that relationship between the husband and wife. So he says NONE, NOT AT ALL, NO, STAY AWAY. There should NEVER be adultery among my people.

Everything in the creation story points toward God creating a world where a man and woman can live together in their Garden of Eden as husband and wife. So, we see God take an Adam and create an Eve for him and then proceed over a ceremony. Moses, looking back later says in Genesis 2:24, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." The goal of the husband/wife relationship is oneness, not sameness, oneness. You used to not have to say this, but we have to say it today. A male and a female. You don't choose your gender; you are born male or you are born female. And a male and female are brought together by God for the ultimate purpose of them being one physically, spiritually, and psychologically. They are one. Perhaps one of my top five verses in the Bible is that next verse, Genesis 2:25, "And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed." That's right! You come to me and say, "Brother Ricky, what are your top five verses?" I'm probably going to say:

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God"

Psalms 23:1 "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want..."

Genesis 2:25 "And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed."

Wow! Is that a verse or is that a verse? God made a man, he made a woman, and man saw woman and went...WOW! This is now bone of my

bones, flesh of my flesh. We are going to call you "Ishshah" for you were taken from "Ish." And if I can say this, God had this farm for them and they ran around doing all of their work naked. Awesome! I don't know if you've ever noticed this, but if you come down our driveway, we have a gate. We just got the gate fixed again. Now, if you ask Celisa why she has a gate she will tell you that when Brother Ricky is away she's kind of afraid so she wants that gate closed. It will sound like that gate has been put up for our protection, but really, that gate has been put up for your protection. When the gate is closed just be careful. You're not going to embarrass us, but we'd probably embarrass you!

We have this beautiful picture, not just of psychical intimacy, but of spiritual intimacy and psychological intimacy between Adam and Eve. And they were naked! They weren't hiding anything from each other! They weren't ashamed. I just love that picture! I've shared this previously with you guys, but about every day when I go into my bathroom, I am reminded of sin in the garden and how sin ruined everything. See, we call our farm Finley Stone Farm. That's the name of my ancestral farm in Scotland and that's what we call our farm. You don't know how I envision our farm being like the Garden of Eden. Yet every day, morning, and afternoon, I'm reminded of sin. See, when Adam and Eve sinned, do you remember what they did? They made clothes for themselves and they hid. Now, we think they hid from God, but they not only hid from God, but they hid from each other. Sin suddenly caused them to look inward and there were just things that they didn't want the other one to know about the other one. So, they made clothes trying to hide from each other. So, every morning I go to the shower and there that towel is over the shower door. I see that towel and that is my symbol of the Garden of Eden. See, every morning I have to take a shower and I have to dry off. When I dry off I put that towel around my waist and I am standing in front of the mirror. Celisa grabs a towel and she does the same thing. Here we both are standing in front of the mirror. I don't like that. Do you realize if there hadn't of been sin we wouldn't have towels? We'd just drip dry! But because of sin, here is what happens-we dry and wrap! Now, I probably should dry and wrap, but I want Celisa to dry and just fling that towel! (I'm sorry; I'm being honest!)

I'm a husband and I'm not ashamed of our intimacy. Yes, we hang our clothes in a closet, but I don't want her to go in a closet and get ready. I want her to get ready in front of me. I don't want there to be any hiding, not just on a physically level, but on a spiritual level and a psychological level. I know some of you are going to struggle with this, but if there is a place where we are going to parade our nakedness, we need to do it at home in the privacy of the husband/wife relationship. It's never to be paraded publicly. Never!

The writer of Hebrews picked up on this and said marriage should be held in honor by all. Oh, I'm so frustrated, I really am, with our culture. I know I'm going to get in trouble for saying this, but when you're my age, it doesn't matter. I was 19 and Celisa was 17 when we got married and I don't know of a single adult who would want their children to get married at that age now. When I got to describe marriage to a group of boys or to a group of men that the only regret about getting married to Celisa was that I waited until I was 19. I wish she'd been 13 and I'd been 15! I mean that! Do you understand what I'm saying? This is so good! It is so awesome! What's awesome? MARRIAGE IS AWESOME! The covenant relationship that we have with each other where we are totally one physically, spiritually, and psychologically. It is so awesome that I wish we had a few extra years together. Do you know what is happening today? Either we are doing something wrong or culture is doing something better than we are doing because now we are delaying marriage until the late 20s or early 30s. Nobody wants to get married and the way some of you guys talk about your wives I understand why. And you ladies are the worst at what you say to your friends about your husbands and ultimately what you're saying is about marriage.

Now, for you singles, listen to me. I do believe there is a biblical gift of singleness and I praise God for those people that God's gifted to be single because a person who is single is totally dedicated to God and they can do what I can't do. See, when I go to Brazil I have to come home because I've got a wife. I've got to come home because I've got kids. But if I was single, wow! I could go to Brazil and serve God for the rest of my life and

never have to worry about coming home at all. That's what some of you single people can do. But if you're single only because you're selfish and you are more into you than you are into the Lord, then shame on you! Do you hear me? Singleness is a gift from God that a few have. The rest of us should be married and marriage should be honorable. The highest honor you have outside of your relationship with Christ should be the relationship that you have with your spouse. Don't you ever put the parent/child relationship on the same relationship that you put the husband/wife relationship. No!

This is what this command is saying...it's talking about the sanctity of marriage. Because in the sanctity of marriage, our children learn the honor of marriage and they learn to honor us as parents who are one with each other. That's why God tells the children to honor us because God knows that we are all going to get our life start from that relationship our mother and father had with each other and ultimately with us. Can I be honest? That's why some of us are still getting over our childhood. Because of Mom and Daddy. This is why this relationship is so important. Hebrews 13:4 says what? Let the marriage bed be undefiled. Now, listen. That's not talking about that physical bed that is in the master bedroom of the husband and wife where they sleep together. Yes, it can be that, but what this is talking about is that marital intimacy, that sexual joy and sexual satisfaction that we have as a couple, she and I, Celisa and I, is to never be defiled. She is to never bring somebody into our relationship and I am never to bring anybody into that relationship. So, we have to be on guard at all times to guard marital intimacy.

Timothy Keller calls sex a gift from God that is the covenant cement to the marital relationship. I like that! It's the superglue to the marriage so to speak. God says for us to guard that and many of us don't guard that. If we were guarding that we wouldn't watch some of the filth that we watch on T.V. If we guarded marital intimacy, we wouldn't join in the culture in making some of the shows that are number one shows become number one shows because the whole show is about marital infidelity. Hollywood makes marital sex boring, repulsive, old-fashioned, and prudish. It offers to

a young generation that yes, you get married, but if you want to have sexual intimacy or sexual pleasure, you have it outside of the marriage. Do you know what the Bible says? God will judge the sexually immoral and the adulterers. Brother Ricky didn't say that; God said that. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 says that if you are a fornicator, sexual immoral, adulterer, or a homosexual you will not enter into the kingdom of heaven just like the thief, just like the drunk, and just like the murderer. We are living in a culture in which God will judge our culture. Yet, culture gets angry with the church when we try to say...DON'T! We aren't being condemning! We aren't being judgmental! We are being compassionate! I can't let a person live a sexual immoral life and head straight to hell without me waving my arms and legs and with everything in me saying...DON'T DO IT!

Do you not agree? Yet, culture wants to silence the church because culture no longer holds marriage sacred as God does and the church does. And in some ways, the church doesn't even hold it sacred anymore. You do know there is a punishment for adultery, right? I don't say this to be condemning or judgmental...but if you committed adultery with your neighbor's wife, or certain people, in the Old Testament—do you know what the punishment was? They stoned you to death! They killed you, as Jerry Clower says, graveyard dead. Some of you better be so thankful that you live on this side of the cross or you'd be dead. Some of you multiple times! You'd be stoned to death. That doesn't sound fun, but that's God's view of adultery.

Why is God so harsh on adultery? Because adultery breaks apart what he put together. You do understand that, right? God made you the way he made you, male or female, to be with someone for the rest of your life. An adulterer breaks that bond and it's punishable by death. Someone says ok, hurry up and get us to the New Testament. Well, do you know what the New Testament punishment is? It's divorce. Please hear me say this. According to Matthew 19:1-11 and other New Testament verses, when you commit adultery on your spouse, that is punishable by divorce. Your spouse is now free to end the marriage and be totally free to pursue another. The Bible doesn't say you HAVE to, but the Bible says you can. Did you hear that? So when you get ready to have an affair, just know

you're giving your spouse the right to end the marriage. You have no ground on after to come back and say I'm sorry. Please forgive me. Let's work this out. You have none at all. Your partner, your spouse has the right to end the marriage. That's how bad adultery is! What God puts together and says...I HATE DIVORCE! What he hates on an even deeper level is adultery because ultimately that leads to the breakup of the most important relationship in the life of the family and that's the husband/wife relationship.

Please hear me. Most Christians don't immediately divorce their spouse, but you just have to know this. When it happens in this church and you come and tell me, please come and tell me before it happens, before it gets public, and before you get caught because if you wait until you get caught it really gets messy! It really gets hard. But here is what you have to know. Every one of you that is married listen to me. Here is what I'm going to say to your spouse. I'm going to say to your spouse that I'll help you guys anyway that I can. I'll help you guys put this back together as best I can, but I want you to know YOU have the right to end this marriage. That is a consequence that we can't change and I'm tired of some of you trying to convince people they shouldn't when that's happened because you don't know how damaging that is when it does happen. No, that sinned against spouse now before God is fully free to choose what they want to do. Are we clear?

There is a prohibition against adultery, there is the punishment for adultery, and there is the pain of adultery. I'm going to share three verses with you, three chapters from the book of Proverbs. It is Proverbs chapter 5, the entire chapter, Proverbs 6:20-36, and Proverbs 7:1-27. I call this the pain of adultery. You guys remember, Solomon, right? The wisest man on the planet wrote that love song, Song of Solomon. It's absolutely unbelievable. He had his heart turn from God because of his wives, multiple wives. Women turned his heart from God. Now, he's writing to his son and telling his son...*son, don't do what I did. Learn from Dad.* Out of those 31 proverbs, 3 chapters primarily deal with the father trying to say to his son to stay away from forbidden women. That woman that comes, you



see her, and she's dressed like a prostitute, stay away from her. You run as fast as you can run! That's what us men better be telling our sons. When you see that woman coming, that woman who is basically revealing everything she's got to you through what she's wearing (not much at all) you better run because if you don't run you're getting ready to go down a road that you don't want to go down. Do any of you remember that little saying "Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay?" Trust me! I've had 33 years of being your pastor. Adultery will take you farther than you want to go. You'll stay longer than you ever thought you'd stay. And it'll cost you far more than you want to pay. I'm not talking about what it's going to do to your spouse. I'm talking about what it's going to do to you! It's going to ultimately cost you everything you have. It's going to cost you everything you are.

That doesn't even begin to cover what happens to your spouse. You have no idea how you're going to devastate. When a husband steps out on his wife it strips her of every dignity and every self-esteem she has. A man masks that a little bit differently. If you read the book of Proverbs, let me tell you what happens. If you commit adultery with someone else's wife the writer of Proverbs says don't even dare to try to go to that man and tell him you're sorry. Don't even dare to try to make it right because you can't make it right! Do you know what that man is going to want to do? He's going to want to kill you because you took the most precious thing he has. You took his wife. I don't know how many times, literally, I've had to intervene and God used me to keep somebody from literally killing somebody else. And can I be totally honest with you? Everything in my flesh wants to say...*go ahead! Take him out!* But the grace of God will not let me say that and the grace of God will not let me do that. And I've never seen the grace of God let a Christian man do what he really thought he wanted to do because even in that moment he's been sinned against so greatly, God's grace comes in and somehow gives him the strength and ability. And do you know what a man will usually try to do? A man will usually be so humble he will see his faults and somehow take blame for not meeting a need of his wife, and I stand amazed at the grace of God.

See, marriage is built on trust. You stand before God and make a vow before God that this covenant relationship is based on faithfulness and trust. The Bible now teaches that she belongs to you and you belong to her. She doesn't have authority over her body; you have authority over her body. You don't have authority over your body; she now has authority over your body. Then, you take your body that belongs to her and you give it to somebody else, or she takes her body and she goes and gives it to somebody else? That trust is broken. That oneness is shattered! You struggle to be a mom. You struggle to be a dad. You can't be a husband and wife! It's hard. You try to keep it from the children. You try to keep it from the community. You don't want anybody to know. You're so humiliated! There is a pain associated with this that is unbelievable!

If I could start with the list of sins I hate most, I promise you adultery would be close to the top because the effects of it are devastating. I'm not trying to condemn you; I'm trying to prevent you from doing what others have done because it will never give you what you wanted it to give you. Please, ladies understand he may promise to leave his wife...he won't. The majority of affairs don't end in happy marriages. I never know what research to really believe, but listen to this, the first time a married couple has an affair, if that affair leads to a marriage, 71% of those marriages end in divorce. Do you know why they end in divorce? It's because one spouse doesn't believe they can trust the other spouse. Let's just use a little logic here. If you started a relationship with your wife, and she cheated on her husband and you're now her husband, why would you believe she's going to be faithful to you? You're not going to, so they usually end in divorce. Pain, pain, pain...now let's prevent it ok, because this is worth preventing! Doesn't everyone agree it's worth preventing?

How do we prevent it? Let's turn to Matthew 5. Listen to what scripture says in Matthew 5:27-30. Starting in verse 27, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery...'" Now, here's what I know, up until this point there is a part of this congregation that is sitting here, trying to look normal, but Satan is condemning you because of what I'm saying. You've been here. Then, there is another part of you that doesn't want

anybody to know what's happened to you, but you want to stand up and say...LISTEN TO WHAT HE'S SAYING! WHAT HE IS SAYING IS THE TRUTH! IT'S HAPPENED TO ME AND I'M TELLING YOU, IT WILL NOT GIVE YOU WHAT YOU THINK IT WILL! Then, there is another group that is sitting here going...*Man, I cannot believe so and so did so and so!* Listen to what this verse says. Starting in verse 28, "But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart." Now...those of you who are without sin can cast the first stone. See, do you know where the problem is? The problem is within us. The problem is within our heart. Even those of us who haven't had a physical affair there is a good chance that you've been in a situation where you saw a woman, you mentally undressed that woman, and you thought about what it would be like to be with her instead of with your wife. The Bible says you've committed adultery in your heart.

Now, with you ladies it usually doesn't start that way. You normally don't look at us and see what we see in y'all, but you look at us and see somebody who is kind, compassionate, talks, listens, and you can share with. Then the next thing you know, you're wishing your husband was like him and you're sharing intimate details. You just committed adultery in your heart. Are we clear? Every one of us in here has the potential of adultery, except one person and that is Celisa. I just want to be honest, y'all. ☺ I could not stand the thought that she has lustful thoughts for somebody else. You don't want her to have those thoughts, do you? No! But can I be honest? You don't want Brother Ricky to have those thoughts either, do you? No! Then, why do you allow yourself to have those thoughts? Why do you think you're different? You're not. So, here's what we are going to do. We are going to actually prevent adultery in the life of Hardin Baptist Church. And I want to tell you this, if we could get this marriage thing right we couldn't have enough services on Sunday for the people who would want to flock down here to find out what is going on in our lives because we'd be living such a radically, holy, blessed life. The whole world would want to come and check it out.

You know marriage has been designed to be a reflection of the relationship that Christ has with the church, so how do we prevent adultery? I'm just going to be simple. You know me, I can't do anything but be simple.

### **1. Cultivate your walk with God in Christ.**

You cultivate and guard your relationship with God in Christ. Can I be totally honest with you guys? I have never counseled someone who was in an adulterous relationship whether in it or coming out of it who had a close walk with God. Never. Because you can't walk with God the Father on the basis of what the Son did for you on the cross with the presence of the Holy Spirit of God living inside of you and you commit adultery. It's not possible. Your walk with God would prevent that. Now, I'm not telling you that there hasn't been people who preach who've had an affair. I'm not telling you that there aren't some people who teach Sunday school who've had an affair. I'm not telling you that there aren't some people who come to church every Sunday who've had an affair. I'm not talking about doing religious things. I'm talking about a personal walk with God where you cultivate that walk with God and you are walking with him on a daily basis. Then, you guard that relationship. That is what prevents adultery.

I want to tell you what I want to believe but I don't believe. I want to believe that I'm such a great husband that my wife couldn't, if she wanted to, have an affair on me because I am so awesome and I'm the best man on the planet. Now, I've about convinced her of that, but y'all don't tell her any different! My faith in my marriage is not in me. My faith in my marriage is in my wife's walk with God. I've told y'all this 1,000 times. It's my favorite moment of the day. I wake up early! I don't know why y'all think I sleep late. Y'all offend me when you call me at 6:00 am and say, "are you up, preacher?" WHAT DO YOU THINK? You think I'm still in the bed at 6:00 o'clock in the morning? Come on! So, I get up a little after 5:00 am and my wife is already up, and do you know where she is? She's in the corner of our bedroom in her chair with her Bible and notepad. She's talking with the Lord. Do you know what I do? I just close my eyes, squint, and look at her. It's my most joyous part of the day because I now know

everything is good on Finley Stone farm. Do you know why? Because my wife has started her day off in the presence of the Lord and here is what I know. Before she would sin against me today she has to sin against her Father, and she isn't going to sin against her Father, so I'm good! Here is what I know. Before she would break my heart, she has to break his heart. She might break my heart, but since before she breaks my heart she has to break his and she won't break his, so I'm good. Amen? Do you get that?! I don't know if you know this or not, but Mrs. Celisa sometimes asks Brother Ricky, "Have you been in the Word today? How is your walk with the Lord?" Because do you know what she is depending on? Not her being the best wife ever, she's depending on me, walking with God in Christ, and us both guarding that relationship. Cultivate and guard your relationship with God.

## **2. Cultivate and guard your relationship with your spouse.**

I want to give you some really practical things in one minute and thirty-eight seconds. You know I can't do it, but I'm going to try! I planted some late tomatoes. I got them down at the Marshall County Co-Op. They look really good! I got them, set them out, and the Lord blessed those tomatoes with about 23 inches of rain. I had tilled up my garden and have had those set out for almost three weeks. They haven't grown an inch. Now, I'm not going back to Tim and saying, "Tim, you sold me some poor tomatoes." No! I got out there the other day and I got my hoe, and I started to hoe those tomatoes. Guess what? I couldn't get my hoe to go into the ground. That soil was so hard there was no oxygen at all! Those tomatoes are doing nothing, so do you know what I did? I broke the soil and began to cultivate. Do you know what happened? Something is changing!

That's what you have to do with your wife. Guys, you have to cultivate that! Ladies, you have to cultivate it! You cultivate on a physical level, a spiritual level, and a psychological level. Now, listen to me. Physically date your wife. I'm not talking about just taking her to the movie or out to dinner. I'm talking about during the week you spend physical time with your wife doing things together! That cultivates that relationship. This is

what hurt us when we got off the farm. When we got off the farm nobody works together anymore; everybody goes separate ways. Then, we take this kid here and this kid there. The next thing you know, husbands and wives are never together. How can you be one if you're constantly separated? So, you have to cultivate finding time to do things together. Date your wife constantly. Date your husband constantly.

Secondly, spiritually disciple one another. Yes! I asked Celisa this morning before I come and said, "Honey, if I wasn't a pastor do you think we'd spiritually disciple one another?" She said, "ABSOLUTELY! Me and you would have been talking about God and our relationship with Christ regardless if you were a pastor." I get so tickled when I come home of the afternoon and she tells me what God told her. She was in the word that morning then something happened on the farm. Now she's got a lesson and I can't wait to get home. And I do likewise with her. We disciple each other! If anybody is responsible for my spiritual growth in Christ it's not a seminary. It's my wife and that ought to be likewise in your life.

Listen, psychologically delight her, and psychologically delight him. Here's what I mean by this. Don't do things that cause your wife or husband psychological stress. STOP IT! Here she is, just now getting over being raised by the parents who didn't do it right and now you add more. QUIT! Psychologically, when I come home I ought to delight Celisa. When we are together, she ought to delight me. I'm going to give you an example and just for the record, I'll have not been wrong. There is nothing wrong with me coming home and setting my Bible on the corner of the buffet as soon as I come in and want to hug her, but there is something about me setting the Bible on the corner of the buffet that she can't handle. She needs me to put it where it goes before I hug her. Now, just for the record, there is nothing wrong with me putting it there first, but do you know what I now do? NEVER do I put anything on the corner of the buffet anymore. Amen? I delight her. She delights me. She discipless me. I disciple her. I date her. She dates me. We cultivate that marital relationship.

Now, once you get it cultivated, here's what you have to do, you have to guard it. We are going to guard it! LBL put some guard rails in some places that I think is an absolute waste of money. I'm sorry; don't tell them I said that! I was coming through LBL the other day and I said to Celisa, "Why in the world would they put a guard rail on the road?" Evidently, they knew there was a need to put a guard rail on that side of the road. Do you know what I'm talking about by guard rails? You know, the state puts those little lines on the side of the road and I don't know about you, but sometimes I kind of get over the line. And whoa, you might find yourself in a ditch! There are some places that if you get out of bounds it could be detrimental to your health so they put guard rails. I believe we ought to have guard rails in our marriage. Do you get it? If you want to prevent adultery in your relationship with your spouse, you put guard rails and then hope and pray the spouse puts guard rails. If we will put these guard rails there will never be an affair. Never! It can't happen! This will change the world if we will practice this!

### **1. Be modest**

I'm going to start with the men. Guys, if you have the big 'guns' and you've got the 'six-pack,' keep it covered. Don't wear tank tops...don't wear wife-beaters. Don't ever take your shirt off in public. I'm serious! Now, the main reason I don't want you to is because when I see your guns I'm reminded of my guns. When I see your six-pack, I'm reminded of my five-gallon bucket. Amen? Don't laugh. Some of you have a bigger than a five gallon! But I'm serious! I'm sick and tired of us telling women to be modest when most of us men are not modest. Don't you put something on hoping somebody thinks you're cute or sexy or built. That is reserved for your wife! Ladies, modesty! I want the guys covering up the biceps. I want the guys covering up the abs. I want you covering up the breasts, the butts, the thighs, and most of the leg. Got it?

Have you ever noticed what Hollywood does? A car door opens, there are high heels, and every guy knows what is getting ready to happen. It's right then that Brother Ricky has to turn his head...because I'm a guy. I don't

want to get anybody in trouble here, but I just almost refuse to go to Hardees anymore...you don't have to advertise that to get me to know how good your hamburger is! Are you kidding me? We've made sex a God; sex is a gift! It hasn't just started lately. I remember being a kid going into the Napa store, and seeing a calendar on the wall that nobody should have let me see as a kid. Yet here's what happens in public. We've got girls dressing to be seen. We've got daddies letting their daughters dress to be seen, then they go out on a date and Daddy would be mad if that guy touched his daughter. Yet, everything about your dress says...*look at me... I'm available... touch me.* ARE YOU KIDDING ME?! I'm sorry, but yoga pants in public...ARE YOU SERIOUS?! You just showed me everything you've got and I don't need to see everything you've got! You parade your nakedness in public and then put flannels that are hanging off of you on to sleep in bed with your husband, and we wonder what's wrong!

We've got to quit listening to culture and as a church get back to the truce of God's word and we've got to be modest as Christians. Don't tell me you can't find anything to wear. If it is true that you can't find anything to wear, there was a day when mommas made dresses, pants, and shirts for their daughters. You say, 'My momma can't sew.' I promise you, your grandmother still can and will be willing to if it would make you more modest. Amen? I am serious here! We have a serious adultery problem in our land and somebody has to step up and be an example and it's got to be the church! The first guard rail we have to put down is modesty in the lives of men and women in this culture in which we live if we are going to be salt and light.

## **2. Distance**

A guard rail you have to have if you're a man is there has to be a distance around you and there can't be any women in that circle, except for your wife, your daughters, your mother, and possibly your mother-in-law. You don't let a female in there. You can't! I don't know if you know this about me, but listen, I don't ever have meals with a woman alone. I don't counsel women at church alone. I don't make visits to women alone.



You're going to see me out eating lunch with Kory, Chris Lawrence, Matt, or Nick, but you'll never see me take Casey, or Abbey or Shelley to lunch. You'll never see me at lunch with a woman. I just learned a long time ago that it's not appropriate. I didn't say I've always done it right, but I've learned you don't do that. You know where most adulterous relationships start, right? A best friend and one lunch. The next thing you know there is an affair. A pastor and his secretary-two work mates-because they didn't keep the opposite sex at the proper distance.

### **3. No texting**

You should not be texting other men's wives. You should not have a friendship with somebody else's wife to the point that you are texting them about nonessential things. You shouldn't do it. If you are doing it, STOP. If there is a relationship where you need to say something, yes, you say it, but it stops there. Don't make jokes. Don't flirt. I want everybody to know this...I've never erased a text message. If you pick up my phone, there are thousands! I come home, I lay my phone on the counter, and my wife picks it up quite regularly and she thumbs through it to see who is texting me. So, if you've ever sent me a text then it's been read by my wife. That's just the way it is. That's not a private device. I'll never let an iPhone come between me and my wife. I'll never let being pastor of this church come between me and my wife. Why do I do that? I'll tell you why I do that. Tell me what brings down most men who are pastors? Women and money. If you ask me right now how much money we have in the bank as a church, I couldn't tell you because I don't ask.

Do you guys understand what I'm saying? I've put some guard rails in my life and you have to put up some guard rails in your life. Listen to me! If you're Snapchatting with a female, then you better stop it! If you're in a chatroom with females then you better get out of that chatroom. I don't have Facebook, but let me tell you something that irritates me. I have people from time to time bring me a picture of what somebody posted on Facebook and it's usually the picture of a woman revealing something she thinks is really good about herself, and then I see "Likes." About half of

those likes are from guys. ARE YOU KIDDING ME?! The next time you see somebody put something on Facebook that is revealing themselves and who they are in that way, instead of you hitting the like button, you better get on your hands and knees and pray for that person. We have husbands who spend more time at home on the internet with other women that they don't even know than they do with their wife, and vice-versa! You know I'm telling the truth and it's got to stop because if we don't have these guard rails here is what's going to happen, somebody is going to be saying that about you...*Did you hear? No, we can't believe it, but it happened!*

In closing, King David-do you remember his affair with Bathsheba? Does everyone remember that? Let me give you a principle. King David, to commit adultery was where he shouldn't have been, doing what he shouldn't have been doing, with whom he shouldn't have been doing it with, and not remembering who he was. So, here is a positive principle, if you don't want to commit adultery just follow this principle. Always be where you're supposed to be, doing what you're supposed to be doing, with who you're supposed to be doing it with, as who you are. King David should have been on the battlefield instead of at home. He should have been leading his men into battle. Who were his men? His soldiers. Who was he? He was the king. But he wasn't being king, he wasn't leading his men in battle, he wasn't with his soldiers, he wasn't on the battlefield; he was in the palace. And do you know what happened? He had an affair, and that will happen to you. The first time you find yourself where you're not supposed to be you better get out of there as fast as you can get and make a commitment to never be in that place again!

Now, here is my goal. We aren't going to judge anybody and we aren't going to condemn anybody because when they brought the woman who had committed adultery to Jesus he said...*Where are your accusers? You who are without sin cast the first stone. Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more.* There is forgiveness for adultery, but I want to stop it! I don't want any more adultery in this church.

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