

Churches Need to Beware of Spiritual Adultery.

James 4:1-4 *“From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”*

As grown adults we all know the definition of “adultery” But let me remind everyone what it means, adultery is defined as, - *one how is unfaithful between a married person and someone other than the spouse.* So, when we add the word “spiritual” before it the whole thing changes. Spiritual Adultery is defined as – is defined as a Christian or a church is unfaithful to the Lord and His word. When a believer is saved, they are the Lord’s property and should have a faithful relationship ONLY with the Lord. The church is the Lord’s, He created it for Himself, He will make her His bride in the future. And when a church is not faithful to the Lord, when they compromise with the world, they have committed spiritual adultery against God, and her head Jesus Christ as a soon to be bride. God warned all Christians and churches alike in 1

Corinthians 6:18 - 20 *“Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. (19) What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? (20) For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”* No one, not a Christian nor a church can be unfaithful to Christ and call themselves faithful to Him. James wrote in our text, **James 4:4** *“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”* And this lust one has, or an entire church has, to satisfy self-lust for any reason, is committing spiritual adultery or if you prefer spiritual fornication against the Lord.

A. Let us look closer at the meaning of spiritual adultery.

1. Jesus said in **Matthew 12:39** *“But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:”*

2. We as Christians and more so churches should need no sign, we should not need the Lord to show us anything, no proof needed. Our faith in God and His word is enough to remain faithful.
 3. As churches, we need to understand that the Lord's hand is at work, God has ordained what is to be, we do not need to change and commit spiritual adultery because of the sign of times.
 4. **Romans 7:4 - 6** *"Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, **that we should bring forth fruit unto God.** (5) For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. (6) But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; **that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.**"*
 5. When we violate the tie between the Lord and ourselves, we have committed spiritual adultery. We have violated our sacred bond in Jesus Christ that bonds us to God. This is a lack of faith in God.
 6. Pagan worship is adultery, to combine worship with idols is adultery. Exodus 20:4 – 5 *"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: (5) Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;"* – We never put anything between us and God, NOTHING!
- B. We belong to God, and as churches we will be Christ's Bride.
1. As we read in our introduction in **1 Corinthians 6:18 - 20** *"**Flee fornication.** Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that **committeth fornication** sinneth against his own body. (19) What? know ye not that **your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?** (20) For ye are **bought** with a price: **therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.**"*

2. **2 Corinthians 6:16 - 17** “*And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (17) Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,*” – Isn’t this clear enough? Does God have to put us into a whale’s belly to make us understand? We cannot walk with the world.

C. Spiritual Adultery in the churches.

1. Unfortunately, many churches have committed spiritual adultery. They have left their faithfulness to God and allowed the world in. This is no different than the church at Pergamos allowing Satan to have a seat which will lead to a throne.
2. There Pastor Polycarp was martyred and they still committed spiritual adultery with Satan and the world.
3. Churches of the world fornicates with the world, whores themselves out to Satan, not the Lord’s churches, not if they want to remain a church. **Revelation 17:5 - 6** “*And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. (6) And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.*”
4. We belong to the Lord, bought with His blood, what a disgrace if we are enticed to leave him, faithful is He, are we? **1 Thessalonians 5:24** “*Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.*”
5. Paul wrote in **Acts 20:27 - 28** “*For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. (28) Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*”
6. The Lord said to the Corinth church in **2 Corinthians 11:2** “**For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.**” This is the goal of every godly Pastor!

