

*affair* - "a romantic or passionate attachment typically of limited duration"

### Affairs

#### I. Affairs are not new! (2 examples from the O.T. - one good; one bad)

A. Joseph & Potiphar's wife (Gen. 39:1-18)

B. David & Bathsheba (2 Sam. 11:1-27)

#### II. Why does a person break their marriage vows and engage in an affair?

A. Sex? - *Nope*

B. Love? - *Nada*

C. Narcissism? - *Rarely*

D. Anger toward their spouse? - *Occasionally*

E. Unhappiness with one's life? - *Usually*

*\*an "affair occurs" when two unhappy people come together and conspire to create a fantasy*

#### III. How do affairs begin?

##### A. *The 14 Steps of Unfaithfulness*

- |                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Sharing common interests | 8. Special notes/gifts       |
| 2. Comparing with your mate | 9. Inventing excuses to call |
| 3. Meeting emotional needs  | 10. Secret meetings          |
| 4. Tinges of dishonesty     | 11. Cover ups and deceit     |
| 5. Flirting and teasing     | 12. Kissing                  |
| 6. Personal talk            | 13. Petting                  |
| 7. Touching                 | 14. Intercourse              |

IV. Can A Marriage be Saved After an Affair? *Yes, emphatically, yes!!!*

A. *The 8 Steps Out of an Affair – What the offender should do*

1. Understand the consequences (Prov. 5:1-14)
2. Confess your sin to God (Psalm 32:1-7)
3. Confess your sin to your spouse (James 5:16)
4. Involve a Godly counselor and become accountable (Prov. 12:15)
5. Starve the source [*no contact of any kind with the third party*] (1 Cor. 6:16-18)
6. Determine to become a disciplined follower of Christ (2 Cor. 5:9)
7. Win back your spouse (make large deposits and few withdrawals) (Num. 5:5-7; Eph. 5:22-33)
8. Think Godly thoughts (Phil. 4:8)

V. What Should the Offended Spouse do?

- A. Forgive (Mark 11:25-26)
- B. Determine if you will stay married [If *yes*, then continue with the following steps; staying married so that you can torture your spouse is not a Biblical option.] (Matt. 19:1-12) - see attached commentary
- C. Don't take it personally!!! This affair is not about you or your shortcomings [Our faults are never an acceptable reason for another to sin.] (James 1:13-16 & 1 Cor. 10:13)
- D. Draw near to Christ (James 4:7-8)
- E. With your spouse seek Godly counsel and leadership (Heb. 13:17)
- F. Put the pain in the proper perspective (Phil. 3:8)
- G. Be careful with your words (Matt. 12:36-37)

*\*God uses time to heal even the deepest hurts.*