

Cell Outlines

Week beginning: 1st April 2007

Theme: Adultery of the heart

To Get Us Started: This topic is a real conversation stopper! From the various TV dramas that you've seen - why does the subject of adultery (or having an 'affair') feature so regularly? Do the 'soaps' encourage or discourage such activity? Or if you don't watch TV what about the so-called 'romantic novels'?

Word

Firstly read the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:1-17 and then re-read the Bible reading from Sunday's service - Matthew 5:27-30.

"The OT command not to commit adultery (Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18) is often treated in Jewish sources not so much as a function of purity as of theft: it was to steal another's wife. Jesus insisted that the seventh commandment points in another direction - toward purity that refuses even to lust after another woman. Insofar as a man looks at the woman with a view to enticing her to lust, he is committing adultery *with* her; i.e., he makes her an adulteress."¹

In the context of Matthew 5 Jesus was teaching his hearers all about holy living and the serious consequences of worldly living.

If we look elsewhere in the Bible 'adultery' is more than marital unfaithfulness. Have a look at the following - if you dare!

- Jeremiah 23:10; Ezekiel 6:8-10; Hosea 1:2; Matthew 12:39 & James 4:4 to mention, but a few!

Discuss in your cell groups the context in which you think these Bible passages are relating and how they might apply to today's society to which we belong.

Witness

Note what I said in the previous sentence - "...today's society to which we belong."

In what ways do we belong bearing in mind James 4:4 and Philippians 3:17-21?

We are not to conform to the pattern of this world, but rather we should be transformed by the renewal of our minds (Romans 12:2).

To apply this important Scriptural teaching from Jesus regarding adultery we need to look even wider to how we live our lives free from any form of idolatry.

I invite you to reflect over the past week and see if you can identify any practises which the Holy Spirit might be leading you away from to a better way.

Remember that Jesus has not come to condemn, but to save and He wants what is best for us. He doesn't want to spoil our fun, but make us whole.

Living our lives free from worldly hindrances can be a great witness to those caught in its trap.

Worship

To conclude your cell meeting spend some time in prayer and worship meditating upon Philippians 4:8 and thanking our Heavenly Father for what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely and admirable. It might also be appropriate to pray for one another in this direction.

¹ NIV Bible Commentary Vol.II, p.27