

ARE YOU COMMITTING ADULTERY? - PART 1

Copyright 1994 - 2024 Bill's Bible Basics

Published On : October 25, 2024

Last Updated : October 25, 2024

Remaining Separate From The World Was A Core Principle Of First Century Church, Strangers And Pilgrims, Christians Who Compromise With The World, Reasons For Compromise, Signs Of A Compromised Christian, The Fallacy Of "Jesus Knows My Heart", Deep Deception Of LGBTQ+ Crowd, Danger Of Rejecting The Word Of God, Giving The Bible Our Own Interpretation, Queen James Bible, Go And Sin No More, Why The Lord Befriended Publicans Harlots And Sinners, New Creatures In Christ: Old Man Versus The New Man, Don't Be Ashamed Of Your Faith, Deny Jesus And He Will Also Deny You, Committing Spiritual Adultery With The World, We Become Married To Jesus Through Spiritual Rebirth, Jesus Is The Head Of The Church As The Husband Is The Head Of The Wife, Spiritual Adultery Occurs When One Loves The World More Than They Love Christ, God Is A Jealous God, Love Not The World, Beware Of Satan's Devices, Set Your Mind On Heaven

Upon seeing the title of this article, without a doubt, the immediate reaction of many people -- including quite a few Christians -- will be to reply with a certain air of disgust "No! Of course not! I would never do such a terrible thing! I love my spouse!" However, what if I were to tell you that some people commit adultery their entire lives without even ever realizing it? WHAT???! If you are wondering what in the world I am talking about, then please continue reading this article, and everything will become clear to you.

Now, to begin, if there is one thing which the New Testament clearly teaches us, it is that remaining separate from the world, and not acting like the rest of the citizens of the world, was in fact a core principle of the Early Church of the First Century. They believed it, and they likewise very much practiced it. This doctrine of being separate from the world was taught directly by Jesus Christ, as well as by the original Apostles.

For anyone who may doubt that this is so, please carefully consider the following group of verses. As you will clearly see, we Christians are simply and truly NOT a part of this present evil world. That being the case, we need to separate ourselves from its wicked ways as much as we possibly can. Stated more plainly, we are in fact strangers and pilgrims -- or foreigners -- on this Earth, who are only temporarily passing through this world on our way to the Promised Land of God's Heavenly Kingdom, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Here then are the verses. There is no way of getting around what they say, unless we purposely choose to be deceived:

"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

John 15:19, KJV

"I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil."

John 17:14-15, KJV

"Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence."

John 18:36, KJV

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Romans 12:2, KJV

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,"

2 Corinthians 6:17, KJV

"No man that warreth [meaning spiritual warfare] entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

2 Timothy 2:4, KJV

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises,

but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city."

Hebrews 11:13-16, KJV

"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."

James 4:4, KJV

"Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."

2 Peter 3:13, KJV

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

1 John 2:15-16, KJV

Yet despite this teaching being so clearly established in the Scriptures, sadly, in our modern day, there are so many self-professing Christians who live and behave no different from the rest of the world. Contrary to what Jesus and the Apostles said and taught, these Christians have so hidden their spiritual light under a bushel, that one can hardly even tell that they ARE Christians, if at all. Such people have totally compromised their faith due to a variety of reasons.

Sometimes, such compromise in their lives is due to peer pressure and political correctness. Perhaps they're afraid of being mocked or rejected by their peers, whether it is their own family members, co-workers or anyone else. Some Christians fear societal ostracism -- or being outcasts -- and even potential persecution from those people who really hate our Christian faith. Then there are those Christians

who simply like the materialistic lifestyle which the world affords them. Or perhaps there is some other unnamed reason.

But regardless of the reason, the bottom line is that rather than choose the sometimes difficult life of faith, such weak Christians have foolishly chosen the easier road by blending in with the world. They pursue making lots of money, having the finest car, living in an impressive home, wearing the latest styles of clothing, donning fancy jewelry, putting on piles of makeup and dying their hair so as to enhance their personal appearance, and doing so many other worldly things to maintain their image and social status.

But it doesn't end there. Some worldly Christians will even go so far as to drink and smoke, and have a marijuana toke. They will cuss just like their co-workers. Many of them will also observe national holidays, even though they know that such holidays are based on lies, paganism and even idolatry. Tragically, when a Christian brother or sister comes along and then lovingly tries to show them the error of their ways, rather than humbly receive the correction, they will often attack that brother or sister, accuse them of simply being judgmental and self-righteous, or else they will say "Just leave me alone. Jesus knows my heart."

How many times have you heard some weak, worldly Christians say that? "It is really okay that I do these things, because Jesus knows my heart, and He is fine with it." Now I'm going to really shock you. Do you know who else says "Jesus knows my heart"? Gays and lesbians who absolutely refuse to give up their abominable, sinful lifestyles. They have become so terribly deceived, that they now even form LGBTQ+ churches where they have foolishly convinced themselves that God is pleased with them, and accepts them exactly as they are.

My friends, that is exactly what happens when we choose to reject the truth of God's Word. It is extremely dangerous to do so, because once the Bible is out of the picture, we can justify and do just about anything we please. In short, we open ourselves up to some very deep deception. Or perhaps a person does not outright reject the Bible on the whole, but they will do something that is just as bad. They will give it their own personal interpretation so that the Bible conforms to what they want to believe and do, instead of what the Bible actually says. This is precisely what the "Queen James

Bible" does. It is a complete abomination! Now in the case of the LGBTQ+ community, they seem to intentionally ignore the fact that Jesus said the following on two separate occasions in the Gospel of John:

"When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: GO, AND SIN NO MORE."

John 8:10-11, KJV

"Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: SIN NO MORE, LEST A WORSE THING COME UNTO THEE."

John 5:14, KJV

As you may know, many worldly people are quick to point out that during His time on the Earth, Jesus associated Himself with publicans, harlots and sinners. This is indeed true, and there are a number of Scriptures which in fact confirm this point, as we can easily determine by the following set of verses:

"And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Matthew 9:10-13, KJV

"For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil. The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children."

Matthew 11:18-19, KJV

"But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented,

and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him."

Matthew 21:28-32, KJV

"And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners? When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Mark 2:16-17, KJV

"And after these things he went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he said unto him, Follow me. And he left all, rose up, and followed him. And Levi made him a great feast in his own house: and there was a great company of publicans and of others that sat down with them. But their scribes and Pharisees murmured against his disciples, saying, Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners? And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Luke 5:27-32, KJV

"For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and ye say, He hath a devil. The Son of man is come eating and drinking; and ye say, Behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners! But wisdom is justified of all her children."

Luke 7:33-35, KJV

"Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them. And he spake this parable unto them, saying, What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after

that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it? And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

Luke 15:1-10, KJV

But you see, while such worldly people and weak Christians are rather quick to point out how Jesus associated Himself with such societal outcasts, they either ignorantly, or in some cases intentionally, refuse to acknowledge exactly why the Lord did that. The previous group of verses provide us with a very clear answer when the Lord says "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." In short, they purposely ignore the "Go, and sin no more" part. And so, because of this, instead of living as the new creature in Christ that they are supposed to be -- that is to say, according to the inner man of the Spirit -- they continue living the life of the old man of the flesh. Consider the following group of Bible verses:

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

2 Corinthians 5:17, KJV

"And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

Ephesians 4:24, KJV

"And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:"

Colossians 3:10, KJV

"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that

the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."

Romans 6:6, KJV

"That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;"

Ephesians 4:22, KJV

"Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;"

Colossians 3:9, KJV

"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace."

Romans 6:12-14, KJV

"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not . . . I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."

Romans 7:18, 25, KJV

What these Christians who compromise with the world really need to realize is that we simply CANNOT be ashamed of our faith and our Christian beliefs, and try to hide our true selves like a chameleon. Why do I say this? Well, because if we are so ashamed of our faith, and if we do choose to hide our spiritual light, the Scriptures makes it very plain that Jesus will likewise be ashamed of us. In fact, He will even deny knowing us before His Father. Consider the following group of verses which verify this important point:

"Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Mark 8:38, KJV

"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, HIM WILL I ALSO DENY BEFORE MY FATHER which is in heaven."

Matthew 10:32-33, KJV

"If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: IF WE DENY HIM, HE ALSO WILL DENY US:"

2 Timothy 2:12, KJV

"For I AM NOT ASHAMED of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

Romans 1:16, KJV

"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I AM NOT ASHAMED: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

2 Timothy 1:12, KJV

"Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, LET HIM NOT BE ASHAMED; but let him glorify God on this behalf."

1 Peter 4:16, KJV

So as it should be quite evident to you by now, instead of trying to blend in with the world -- which will inevitably lead to serious compromise in our lives -- we need to do our very best to remain as separate from the present world as we possibly can. Now that we've firmly, clearly and Biblically established this point, we are really going to get into the meat of the matter, and exactly why this article is called "Are You Committing Adultery?". Earlier, I shared with you the following verse that was written by the Apostle James:

"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."

James 4:4, KJV

It is important for you to understand that when James writes "Ye adulterers and adulteresses", he is NOT talking about physical/sexual adultery; although that is indeed a grievous sin before the Lord as well, which I discuss in other of my

articles. Rather, James is writing about a different kind of adultery. In other words, he's really talking about SPIRITUAL adultery, as the rest of the verse clearly bears out. More specifically, James is talking about adultery with the world. But exactly what does James mean when he says this? Please continue reading, and it will soon become very clear to you.

As some of my readers will know, the Holy Scriptures teach us that through our faith in Christ and being born again in the Spirit -- as per Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus in John chapter three -- we Christians are spiritually married to Jesus . We -- the Church -- are His spiritual bride, and He is our spiritual husband, just as Israel was married to the Lord in the Old Testament. This Scriptural truth is born out by the following group of verses:

"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 [meaning Jesus], that we should bring forth fruit unto God."

Romans 7:4, KJV

"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body."

Ephesians 5:23, KJV

"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:"

Ephesians 4:15, KJV

"And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."

Colossians 1:18, KJV

"But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God."

1 Corinthians 11:3, KJV

"And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? but the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast."

Matthew 9:15, KJV

"Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not."

Matthew 25:1-12, KJV

So what we can learn from all of these verses is that when we ignore the Lord in our lives -- meaning that we abandon our spiritual husband -- don't follow His teachings, and for whatever our reasons choose to follow the ways of the world instead, we are committing adultery with the world. When we hide our spiritual light under a bushel, and choose instead to live and act just like the rest of the world so that they can't even tell that we're Christians, then we're committing spiritual adultery with the world.

In short, similar to physical/sexual adultery where a spouse is unfaithful and engages in sexual intercourse with another man or woman, we are in effect committing spiritual adultery with the world. The world becomes our on-the-side lover, and God does NOT like it one bit, because as the Scriptures also inform us, He is a very jealous God, as we can determine by the following set of verses:

"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;"

Exodus 20:5, KJV

"For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:"

Exodus 34:14, KJV

"For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God."

Deuteronomy 4:24, KJV

"Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto 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,"

Deuteronomy 5:9, KJV

"(For the LORD thy God is a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the LORD thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth."

Deuteronomy 6:15, KJV

To continue then, earlier, I shared the following two verses with you. Please carefully notice the first four words that the Apostle John writes, even before he exposes the dangers which exist in the current world. He very specifically says "Love not the world", because when we are loving the world, we are not truly loving God first. As I said a moment ago, we have abandoned our spiritual husband, and we've become guilty of committing spiritual adultery with the world, as the Apostle James wrote:

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

1 John 2:15-16, KJV

"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."

James 4:4, KJV

So then, rather than allow Satan to tempt us and to ensnare us with the temporary things of this present world and life -- that is to say, with the things which appeal to the lust

of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life -- we need to remain sober and vigilant, and we need to ignore his crafty temptations and sly devices, as we see by these two verses:

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:"
1 Peter 5:8, KJV

"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."
2 Corinthians 2:11, KJV

In short, my friends, just as Jesus and the Apostles did, we likewise need to set our affections -- that is to say, our thoughts -- on things above, on heavenly things, and NOT on those things which merely pertain to this Earth. Here again are some additional Bible verses which verify this point:

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."
Colossians 3:1-2, KJV

"And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away."
1 Corinthians 7:31, KJV

"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."
2 Corinthians 4:18, KJV

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good

fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."

1 Timothy 6:6-12, KJV

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

Matthew 6:24, KJV

"No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

Luke 16:13, KJV

Please go to part two for the conclusion of this article.

Written by Bill Kochman

wordweaver777@gmail.com

<https://www.billkochman.com>

ARE YOU COMMITTING ADULTERY? - PART 2

Copyright 1994 - 2024 Bill's Bible Basics

Published On : October 25, 2024

Last Updated : October 25, 2024

Without Spot And Blameless Before The Lord, Remain Separate From The World, Let Your Light So Shine, Persecuted For Our Faith, Rejection Alienation Ostracism Come With The Terrain, Rejoice In Your Sufferings And Persecution, Human Marriage Reflects Our Relationship To Christ, That We Should Bring Forth Fruit Unto God, Be Fruitful And Multiply, Fruit Of A Christian Is Another Christian, Sow The Seed And Be Fruitful Branches, Childless Couples And Adulterous Spouses, Adultery With The World, Cursed Fig Tree, Purging By Fire Purifies Us And Makes Us More Fruitful For The Lord, BBB Reading List

Continuing our discussion from part one, and to reiterate a point that I made in part one, we need to do our very best to remain the Lord's untainted bride who is unspotted from the world, and who stands blameless before Him, as we can determine by the following group of verses:

"That ye may be BLAMELESS and harmless, the sons of God, WITHOUT REBUKE, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;"
Philippians 2:15, KJV

"Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, WITHOUT SPOT, and BLAMELESS."
2 Peter 3:14, KJV

"I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; That thou keep this commandment WITHOUT SPOT, UNREBUKEABLE, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:"
1 Timothy 6:13-14, KJV

But exactly how do we, as the faithful bride of Jesus Christ, achieve this goal? Again, by not compromising our Christian convictions, and by remaining as separate from the world as we possibly can, despite any negativity which may potentially come our way because of our taking such a stance. That also means setting an example for the world by the way in which we live, behave and talk.

So as you can see, we each have an important choice to make. We can either hide our spiritual light, and act and behave more like the world, or else we can help the world to become more like us by being the example that God expects of us as His children of light. Following are some additional verses which reveal the importance of letting our spiritual light shine before the world:

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16, KJV

"No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light. The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness. Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness. If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light."

Luke 11:33-36, KJV

"Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children . . . For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light . . . And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

Ephesians 5:1, 8, 11, KJV

Now, make no mistake. If you choose to live your life in a godly manner which is more pleasing to the Lord than to the children of the world, eventually, you may indeed draw some heat from those people who don't agree with your beliefs, or with the manner of life you have chosen. You may become the object of their ridicule, or worse. If that should happen to you, it is important that you understand that rejection and being ostracized from society due to your Christian beliefs is a part of being a true Disciple of Jesus Christ.

As I point out in a few other BBB articles, the Prophets of the Old Testament period most certainly experienced this kind of rejection and persecution, and even death at the hands of the very people they were trying to warn and save. Jesus obviously experienced it as well, including His own death on the Cross, as we read in the Gospels and in the rest of the New Testament. As the Book of Acts and some of the Epistles reveal, the Apostles and Disciples of the First Century Church likewise often found themselves persecuted, beaten, thrown in jail and kicked out town. And, of course, many other Christians down through history have experienced the very same kind of treatment at the hands of nonbelievers, and even at the hands of organized religion, such as the RCC.

A good chapter to read regarding this topic is Hebrews 11 in the New Testament. It is commonly referred to as the "heroes of faith" chapter. While I more amply discuss the subject of persecution against Christians in articles such as "Civil Disobedience and Christian Persecution", for the time being, allow me to share a few of my favorite verses with you:

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

2 Timothy 3:12, KJV

"Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another."

Matthew 24:9-10, KJV

"But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake. And it shall turn to you for a testimony. Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist. And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake. But there shall not an hair of your head perish. In your patience possess ye your souls."

Luke 21:12-19, KJV

"If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me."

John 15:18-21, KJV

"They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth

God service."

John 16:2, KJV

So as you can see, if we are going to travel down this path, and live in a manner that is pleasing to the Lord, we need to be willing to suffer persecution for our Christian faith. We need to be willing to stand alone, even if the whole world stands against us and tells us that we are wrong, or that we are stupid, or crazy, or that we believe in fairy tales. It really does not matter what they think. All that truly matters is what God thinks of us, and that we are pleasing the Lord, right?

Now, while I have painted a rather dark picture for you with the previous group of verses, you should know that in most cases -- at least in the Western world -- you won't suffer such serious persecution. At best, you may become alienated from certain members of your own family who do not embrace your Christian beliefs. In fact, this has happened to me for literally decades now. Likewise, some of your co-workers may heckle you. Sadly, if you belong to a church in your area, some of them may distance themselves from you as well if you are more enthusiastic about your faith than they are willing to find acceptable.

Of course, if you are a really bold witness for your faith, and one who street preaches, or who passes out Gospel tracts in shopping mall areas where they have "No Loitering" or "No Soliciting" signs, or who stands in firm protest at abortion clinics, well, you should expect the level of persecution to rise substantially to where you may even spend time in jail. If the situation should escalate to that point, instead of allowing the Devil to condemn you and tell you that you just really blew it and were stupid, please remember verses such as the following:

"Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

Matthew 5:11-12, KJV

"And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for

his name."

Acts 5:41, KJV

"But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy."

1 Peter 4:13, KJV

Now, there is something else that you need to know, and that is this: If we choose to live in a manner which is pleasing to the Lord, and if we are faithfully letting our spiritual light shine in the world through being a bold witness of our faith, something else is going to happen. Do you know what that is?

The answer can be found by going back to a verse I shared with you at the beginning of this article, and understanding that human marriage relationships are merely a reflection of the true relationship which Jesus desires to have with us, His spiritual bride. The Bible verse I am referring to is the following one:

"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."

Romans 7:4, KJV

In this case, I would like to highlight the very last phrase in that verse where the Apostle Paul writes "that we should bring forth fruit unto God." Given the rest of the verse, it should be rather evident what Paul means by that phrase. But if not, and you need a little help, it is quite simply this:

Just as the Lord told Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden to be fruitful and multiply, He desires the very same thing of us as His spiritual wife. In other words, He desires for us to bear spiritual children for His Kingdom. So how do we do that? By letting our spiritual light shine, and endeavoring to be a faithful witness of our faith to others. That's how.

In other words, as it has been said, the fruit of a Christian is another Christian. If you are living a Christian life, and people notice your example, they may become curious and begin to question you regarding your faith. With time, some of them

may even reach a point where they too accept the Lord. If you are a bold street preacher or a Gospel tract passer, it is even more likely that you may win souls to the Lord. So these souls that you win are your spiritual fruit. They are in fact your spiritual children to which you gave birth. Following are some related Bible verses concerning sowing the seed of God's Word, and being fruitful branches for God's Kingdom:

"And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."
Psalms 1:3, KJV

"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise."
Proverbs 11:30, KJV

"But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold . . . But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."
Matthew 13:8, 23, KJV

"Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof."
Matthew 13:31-32, KJV

"And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred."
Mark 4:20, KJV

"But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience."
Luke 8:15, KJV

"He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit

thereon, and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down."

Luke 13:6-9, KJV

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit."

John 12:24, KJV

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned . . . Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."

John 15:1-6, 16, KJV

Stop and think about the previous verse group for a moment. Wouldn't it be rather strange -- not to mention selfish -- if a human couple is perfectly capable of having children, and yet after twenty long years of marriage, they are still childless? It would certainly raise some eyebrows, wouldn't it?

So then think how our Heavenly Father would feel if we, His spiritual bride, were married to Him for twenty long years, and yet after so long a time, we had never bore Him a single spiritual child. Worse yet, imagine if in either the human relationship, or in our spiritual relationship with Jesus, the reason why there are no children is because the spouse

is being unfaithful, and is committing adultery with some other person, or in a spiritual sense, with the world. Wow!

Well, if there is one thing we have learned here, it is that God loves fruitfulness, both physical fruitfulness in all of its different forms, and in spiritual fruitfulness as well. As some of the previous verses reveal, when someone or else something does not bear fruit, God is not very happy about it, and He casts it into the fire to be burned. Burning does NOT necessarily mean that it is always destroyed. In certain instances, burning and fire is simply meant to purge off the dross so that something becomes more pure and more fruitful. Following are a few more verses for your consideration:

"Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered. And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away. And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away!"

Matthew 21:18-20, KJV

"And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet. And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it . . . And when even was come, he went out of the city. And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away. And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God."

Mark 11:13-14, 19-22, KJV

"Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."

1 Corinthians 3:12-15, KJV

"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:"

1 Peter 1:7, KJV

"I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent."

Revelation 3:18-19, KJV

Thus, we have now come full circle in our discussion, and we see that spiritual adultery with the world can eventually lead to spiritual fruitlessness, which itself may lead to spiritual death. That is how serious the issue of spiritual adultery is with the Lord. After reading all of the above, can you still honestly say that you are not committing adultery?

With these thoughts, I will bring this article to a close. It is my hope that you have found it informative, enlightening, and I pray that it has been a blessing in your life as well. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr or with any other social network, I would really appreciate if you'd take the time to click or tap on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information and further study, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were either mentioned in this article, or which contain topics which are related to this article. All of these articles are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics web server. To read these articles, simply click or tap on any link you see below.

Are You a Burning Ember for the Lord?

Are You Crucified With Christ?

Are You Redeeming the Time?

Biblical Marriage Ceremonies

Christian Witnessing: Winning the Sheep and Waging the Warfare!

Civil Disobedience and Christian Persecution
Do You Stand Up for Your Faith?
Going Down the Highway of Life
Have You Sold Your Soul for a Pound of Flesh?
My Personal Vision and Your Challenge
Oh Be Careful Little Eyes!
One From Beyond: Hebrew of Hebrews
Queen James Bible: Blasphemous Abomination Exposed!
Sluggards and Sloths: Are You Diligent and Faithful in the Affairs of God's
Kingdom?
Strangers and Pilgrims: Are You an Alien?
Study, Work and Don't Be Ashamed
The Children of Light: Are You One of Us?
The Fruit of the Womb
The Heavenly Vision: Have You Got It?
The Thorny Issues of Marriage, Adultery and Divorce
This Little Light, Glory of the Lord and Our Bright Future

Written by Bill Kochman

wordweaver777@gmail.com

<https://www.billkochman.com>