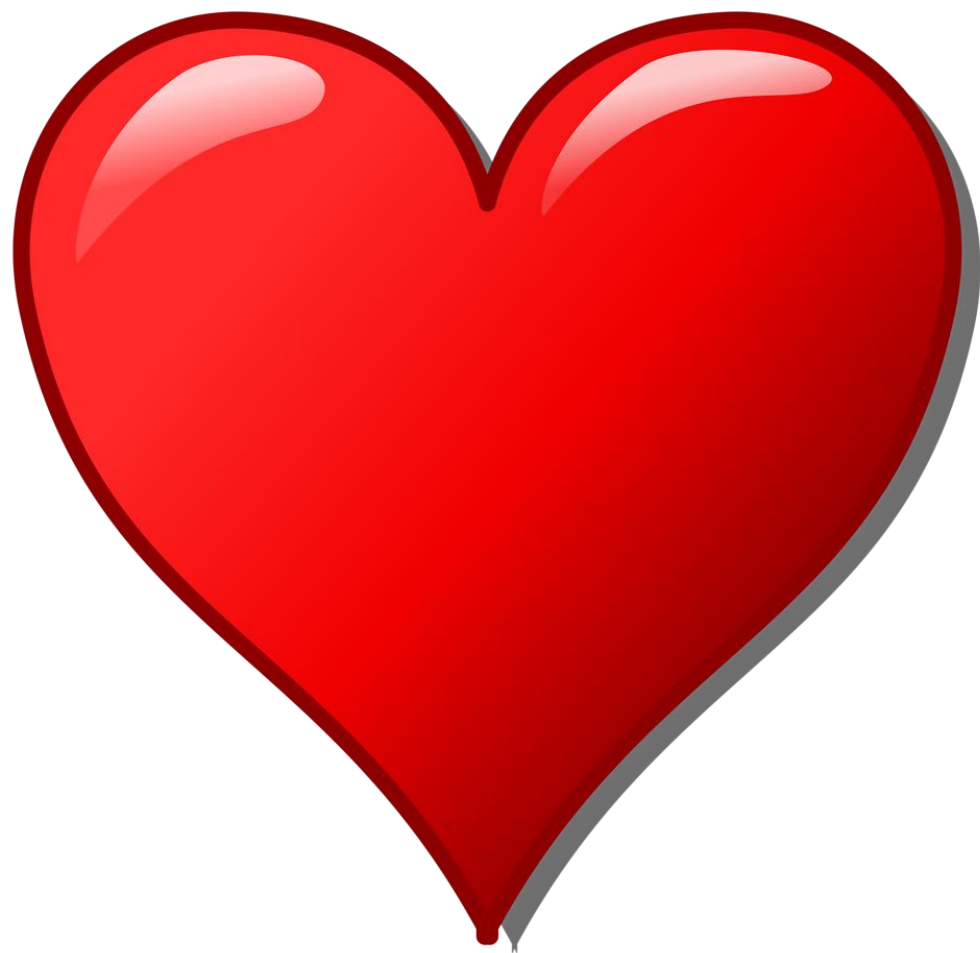




How to Affair-Proof Your Marriage – Pt. 3



*Guard Your
Heart with all
Diligence*



Sin Begins in the Heart

- What defiles us, including adultery, begins in the heart – Matt. 15:18-20
 - Job recognized this – Job. 31:9-12
 - Affairs begin because one's heart becomes intimately, even sexually, involved with another.
- You must guard your heart – Prov. 4:23
 - What you allow in your heart is what you are or will become
 - The wise man warned against allowing our *heart* to stray toward the temptation of an immoral person – Prov. 6:25; 7:25



*Guarding Your
Heart Requires...*

Recognize the Danger



- Be aware of the prevalence and power of sexual temptation – Prov. 7:6-10, 21-23
- Our society bombards us with sexual temptation
- Sexual temptation doesn't go away when you get married
- The minute you begin to think you are immune, you are asking for trouble – 1 Cor. 10:12; Mt. 26:31ff.; Prov. 7:26



Store Up God's Word In Your Heart

- Value? The word in your heart will keep you from sin...if it is truly part of your life – Psa. 119:9-11; Prov. 6:20-24
- What God's word says about adultery:
 - In the O.T. it was punishable by death – Lev. 20:10
 - One who commits it lacks understanding – Prov. 6:32
 - It will keep you out of heaven – Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Cor. 6:9-10
 - It is the only grounds for divorce – Mt. 19:9
 - It is the one sin said to be against one's own body – 1 Cor. 6:18
 - God will judge adulterers – Heb. 13:4



Remember Your Vows

- When two marry, they vow to keep a solemn covenant to each other before God – Mal. 2:13-14
 - It is a vow to be faithful **till death do us part**
 - Changing the vows changes nothing! God created marriage!
- God expects you to keep your vows, or promises – Psa. 15:1, 4
 - The wise before God keep their vows – Eccl. 5:4-5
 - The one who commits adultery forsakes those vows – Prov. 2:17



Control What Goes Into Your Heart

- Garbage in, Garbage out!
- Patrick J. Buchanan rightfully said, “The food that enters the mind must be watched as closely as the food that enters the body.”
- One might argue that we cannot be fully successful in doing this – Prov. 7:25
- Your heart is compromised if you find yourself thinking or talking about, longing for, or finding ways to be with this person.



Keep The Home Fires Burning

- A lack of fire in a marriage is a major cause of affairs
- Affairs are about unmet needs. Husbands and wives be sensitive to your mates needs.
- Work hard on your marriage – Prov. 5:15-18
 - Don't take each other for granted
 - Keep dating
 - Practice the golden rule



Pray Regularly

- We all need God's help every moment of every day
- True wisdom is gained through fervent and confident prayer – Jas. 1:5-8
- Husbands and wives need wisdom to...
 - Resist temptation
 - Please their mate
 - Make their marriages fulfilling
- Pray without ceasing – 1 Thess. 5:17



Conclusion

- Adultery begins long before the sexual immorality comes into the mix.
- I am firmly convinced that you can affair-proof your marriage if you will:
 - Make a covenant with your heart and eyes to keep evil from before you
 - Do whatever it takes to avoid temptation...even if it requires drastic measures
 - Bridle your tongue
 - Keep your hands to yourself
 - Keep your heart with all diligence