

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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God Will Judge

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Recent news of the marital infidelity of two nationally known politicians has created quite a buzz through the media. These are truly horrible stories to hear, yet too often the media paints this as justifiable or inevitable. These two cases are representative of a widespread problem of adultery and infidelity that saturates the world around us.

Recent statistics show that approximately 59% of spouses have cheated on their partner in their lifetime. This fact shows a staggering amount of disregard to the sanctity of the marriage relationship. While the media glamorizes adultery through television and movies and people seek to find excuses to justify their selfish actions, we are left looking for answers.

Fortunately we have been equipped by God to know the solutions to this problem. God has been very clear that adultery is a violation of His will. One of the Ten Commandments that God gave in the law of Moses states “Thou shalt not commit adultery” (Ex. 20:14). Adultery was a serious crime in the eyes of Jeho-

vah. Leviticus 20:10 says “And the man that committeth adultery with another man’s wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour’s wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.”

The word “adultery” literally means to break wedlock, it is a willful act of intercourse with someone other than one’s spouse. The marriage relationship was sanctified since the beginning of time and gives no place for adultery. Jesus discusses the sanctity of this relationship in Matthew 19:6, “So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.” Marriage was created to be for one man and one woman for life. Marriage is a covenant relationship before God and God expects man to be faithful to the covenant that he makes in marriage.

God feels the same way about adultery in the New Testament as He did in the Old Testament: He abhors it. In Galatians 5:19 we find that adultery is listed as one of the works of the flesh and that a person who practices adultery “will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

Hebrews 13:4 provides a very clear message of God’s view of marriage and adultery: “Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.” God honors and holds the marriage relationship in high regard. It is holy, set apart, and protected by God.

Those who would dishonor the marriage covenant or defile the relationship have no hope but to await the judgment of Jehovah. We have seen how He views adultery and He will execute His wrath upon those who practice this work of the flesh. There will be no excuses or justification for infidelity.

With politicians and so many in our society engaging in this sinful action what are we to do? First, we must remember the will of God concerning the sanctity of marriage. We must honor it in our lives and teach others to honor it as well. Second, we must remember the judgment and wrath of God and keep our lives pure and warn others also (2 Cor. 5:11). May we honor God in our marriages!