

# Glad Tidings

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

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## What Adultery Is Saying

(Jerry Fite)

**T**his past week Arnold Schwarzenegger admitted not only adultery with a former house staff worker, but confirmed that he fathered a child by her over a decade ago. It was not the first time a public figure admitted adultery, and sadly it will probably not be the last. But this sad infidelity allows us to consider what adultery is saying when a married man or woman goes outside of the marriage relationship to satisfy their desires.

You dig down deep to the root of all sin, and you will find it labeled selfishness. Especially is this true with the sexual sin of adultery. The man or woman already having a wife or a husband with whom the sexual desire can be satisfied, wants a momentary thrill, a little excitement, a biochemical fix for a tension packed life style. So, they will forget the husband or wife back home and pursue their lust. It is all about their felt needs, and nothing about honoring their marriage.

The way the circumstances unfolded for the California governor and his response high-

lights selfishness. When did he admit the affair? Ten years after it occurred. Why now? He was no longer going to be governor, and the woman with whom he had the affair threatened to tell his wife. As long as he could hide his affair and remain governor, he could live with what he had done. He characterized the circumstances as, “*After leaving the governor’s office I told my wife about this event, which occurred over a decade ago.*” Selfishness calls it an “*event.*”

Was he thinking about his children when he pursued his lust? He and other public figures will usually “*take full responsibility*” for the hurt they cause, but it is after the fact. If they truly cared for their spouse and children, honoring them above themselves, they would not engage in the hurtful sin in the first place.

Adultery also says that one lacks self-control. Paul exhorting the Thessalonians to live holy writes, “*For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye abstain from fornication; that each of you know how to pos-*

*sess himself of his own vessel in sanctification and honor. . .*” (*I Thessalonians 4:3-4*). Ironically, Arnold Schwarzenegger has been a body builder all his life. The restrictive diet, and grueling day in and day out workouts demand discipline. Yet, Paul says he did not know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor. Adultery will always distinguish the spiritually weak from the physically strong. Strong bodies cut a pathetic figure when their weak spiritual characters are exposed.

Adultery says one has not resisted the devil. James writes, “. . . *resist the devil, and he will flee from you*” (*James 4:7*). While the devil is the great tempter, and the lust of the flesh is part of his seductive arsenal, we can resist him and find the way of escape (*I Cor. 10:13*).

The adulterer may not say it, but adultery is saying: “*I was selfish and did not care enough for the honor of sanctification in myself, nor the honor of my wife and children to manifest self discipline in resisting the devil;*”