

CWW Week 39 – Spiritual Adultery

Hi everyone and welcome back to Church Without Walls, week 39 as we unpack, um, some Bible verses relating to the topic of spiritual adultery. And, uh, I'm sure the reasons why I'm using this particular topic will become very plain to you as we go through it. Uh, I'm recording this on. Nine 11, the 11th of September, 2001, 24 years after the collapse of the World Trade Center, and also the day that the wonderful Charlie Kirk was assassinated in the USA.

It's a very somber day and, um, the world has changed in so many ways that we'll never be able to, uh, understand. So that's why it's important that we have this journey with Jesus. Understand that the only way out of this mess is through faith in him. He's the way, the truth, and the life. Let's bow our heads for prayer.

Dear Lord, father in heaven, we pray, Lord for Charlie Kirk's family, and we pray for us. Father God, as we open your word, we pray your Holy Spirit will guide and lead us as we try and understand the world that we are living in. Before we ask this, in Jesus name, amen. The topic, spiritual adultery. Um. Why spiritual adultery?

Well, we're living in a time in Earth's history where things are changing dramatically. For all the reasons I've just discussed, we have to realize that Jesus is coming very soon. If you listen carefully, you can hear the train rattling down the tracks. It's that close, and in that understanding that he is coming very soon.

We need to be prepared and we need to understand that our faith should be as pure as we can make it. It's not saying that we have to be pure or perfect, not by any means, we've gotta be striving for that, but God understands where we're at and he sent Jesus to tell us that it's okay that we're a work in progress and each day we should be better than we were yesterday.

But a lot of things have happened in history to cause the real message of the gospel to be distorted and to cause people to walk away from it and even deny it. A lot of people are looking for faith and they're looking for somewhere to put their faith. But religion has made it very difficult for them to pin that to God, to attach that wagon to the horse that is Jesus.

And um, and that's what really concerns me. What is spiritual adultery? Well, it's a watering down of somebody's faith. Uh, new age thinking is one of those. Spiritualism is another one. There are so many different ways that we water down our faith. We adulterated. By adding other doctrines to it and straying away from the Bible and using other authors.

A lot of the, um, a lot of the, the texts that we use now have been colored and distorted by, uh, spiritualism, which started happening in the 18 hundreds, and, uh, caused a lot of dissension amongst various churches, and a lot of false doctrines came out of that. A lot of people are still going along with that today, and one of those.

Which I won't go into depth with is, uh, the secret rapture that's not actually supported in the Bible, but it is a, a, it surfaced in the mid 18 hundreds during a time of a spiritualist revival. Um, the other thing about spiritual adultery is we can relate it to infidelity as we do in a marriage or relationship.

Uh, when we adulterate the word of God, uh, we, we are, we are committing infidelity. Infidelity in our journey and our relationship with him, our marriage to Jesus. So it's really important that we understand this. So many people are falling for this trap. We've gotta differentiate between religion and relationship with Jesus.

That's the primary focus of everything I'm trying to do here at Church Without Walls. The devotionals for this particular topic this week, uh, will be up, uh, as, uh, you've, you've, uh, listened to this sermon, you'll be able to, uh, get the, the daily devotionals on the topic, and they're gonna be very enlightening.

They were very enlightening to record, I can tell you. So we need to unpack this. It's good to unpack this journey with French. And I strongly suggest if you haven't joined a church, a local church, or set up a home church of your own, that you formulate a group and sit down and discuss these things. There are a lot more people coming to terms with the fact that we need a relationship with Jesus Christ for those wanting to go on that journey.

And you need a bit of help along the way. There's a wonderful Bible study group of volunteers. Waiting to take your call and waiting to support you in that journey. You can go to, um, hoodies, heroes, sorry, hoodies bible studies.com. And there you will find, uh, contact details for people in or near your area where you can meet up with them.

You can chat with 'em over the phone or you can do Zoom Bible studies with them and they can arrange for you to join groups. They're wonderful people and, uh, they're all volunteers. So, uh, if you want to join that group and you want to be, uh, you want to help in, in, uh, uh, delivering Bible studies to people, uh, contact Liam Tross on the website and he will, uh, make arrangements to see if we can, uh, use your talents and skills in that regard.

So, spiritual adultery, um, I've seen it happen. I've been part of it. I remember walking through the new Age movement at a time when I was searching for meaning at a time when I would walk past 500 churches and look the other way. But I've since realized that God is the answer. God truly is the answer to all of our problems.

He is the way that Jesus is, the way, the truth, and the life. The only way to the Father is through the Son Jesus. And since that, my life has exploded with relevance, I've found real importance. In living the life the way God intends me to live. Do I make mistakes all the time, but I grow from each mistake.

Doesn't mean I'm a loser because in Christ we are all winners. So let's look at some Bible verses that relate to spiritual adultery and the meanings. So I ask you to go to your Bibles as I'm about to do, and the first scripture I'm gonna ask you to look up is Jeremiah chapter three, verses six to 10.

Jeremiah. Chapter three and verse 6, 2 10, and it says, have you seen what faithless Israel did? She went up on every high hill and under every green tree, and there played the whore. Yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but she too went and played the whore. What does that mean? Well, one explanation I have here is God accuses Israel and ju of spiritual adultery for worshiping idols and turning away from him just like a spouse who is unfaithful in marriage.

The people were unfaithful to their covenant with God. They made an agreement with God and they're unfaithful in that regard. Um, and you know, we've seen that happen so many times, so many times we ourselves have turned away and we've, we've worshiped idols like money, like our career. Movie stars, rock stars, perhaps we've, we worship our spouse, which is what we're meant to do.

We're meant to worship our spouse, but we're meant to put God first. And I know that's hard, but I can tell you Michelle doesn't want me to put her ahead of God. 'cause she wants me in heaven, in, in, in heaven, in eternity with her. Uh, the next verse I wanna look at is Ezekiel chapter 16 and verses 30 to 32.

Ezekiel 15, 30 to 32. And let me see here.

1630 to 32. Your adulterous wife, you prefer, sorry, you adulterous wife. You prefer strangers to your own husband. What does that mean? Well, it's pretty, it's pretty straightforward, isn't it? But we're talking about an adulterous wife in a relationship. We're talking about adulterous Christians in the Christian relationship.

God uses shocking imagery to describe Jerusalem's unfaithfulness. Though God had cared for and raised her as his bride, he pursued other lovers, or she pursued other lovers, I should say, idols and foreign nations symbolizing deep betrayal. Israel betrayed God many, many times and he kept reconciling with her.

Let's go to Hosea, chapter one and verse two, the book of Hosea one. Verse two, go marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her for like an adulterous wife. This land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the Lord. It's

pretty stark, isn't it? But it's true. God commands Isaiah to marry an unfaithful woman as a living parable to illustrate Israel's spiritual adultery.

The relationship shows God's pain over Israel's betrayal, but also his continuing love and desire to redeem them. He wants to redeem you. I want you to know that even though you may not be of Israel or of Jewish descent or of the Jewish faith, Jesus considers you part of spiritual Israel if you believe in him.

That's how the system works. Gentiles who believe in God are citizens of spiritual Israel. James chapter four and verse four is our next verse, James four and verse four. You adulterous people. Don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God. James confronts believers here who are compromising with worldly views.

He calls this spiritual adultery because choosing the world over God is like being unfaithful in a marriage covenant. What is the world? Well, it's that mad place that we live in, and we are meant to be in the world, but not of the world. We're meant to, of course, participate in life, in the world, in the worldly system.

But we're meant to maintain our relationship with Jesus. If we don't do that and the world takes over, we've committed spiritual adultery. We've gotta try and avoid that. Let's go to the last book of the Bible now. Revelation chapter two, verses 20 to 22. Revelation two, 20 to 22. You tolerate that woman, Jezebel.

By her teaching, she misleads my servants into sexual. Im immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. I will strike her children dead. God's making a pretty claim, uh, pretty plain through the prophet here. Jezebel represents corrupt spiritual influence leading the church into idolatry and immorality.

This is a form of spiritual adultery, drawing people away from faithful devotion to Christ. Once again, money can do this. Uh, entertainment can do this. Music movies. I've gotta watch myself on the last couple music and movies. I've always been a movie fan and I love my music, but if it doesn't support my relationship with Jesus, I'm very wary of it.

Let's look at Ezekiel chapter 23 and verse 37. Book of Ezekiel 23 and verse 37. They have committed adultery and blood is on their hands. They committed adultery with their idols. They even sacrificed their children whom they, whom they bore to me. God's children created his in his image. That's talking about a time in the Middle East that was very, very sick.

Very sick. Has it improved any? Let's not go there. Samaria and Jerusalem are portrayed as two sisters guilty of idolatry and child sacrifice. This passage emphasizes the horror of spiritual adultery, betraying God for false gods, even to the point of committing atrocities. Can you imagine worshiping a God that demands that you sacrifice your children on the altar?

Can you imagine how that would anger God? But dare I say it, that is happening today. That is actually happening today. Look at the abortion rates. How many millions of babies are being sacrificed on the altar because of the abortion rates? Let's now go to Exodus chapter 34, verses 15 and 16, the book of Exodus chapter 34, verses 15 and 16, and it says, be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land and when you choose some of their daughters as wives.

For your sons, they will lead your sons to commit adultery with their gods. Their Gods, plural. God warns Israel not to mix with pagan nations, lest they fall into idolatry, which is equated with adultery. The covenant relationship with God is exclusive, just like marriage. Don't have to explain that more than once, do we?

And finally, let's look at Isaiah chapter one and verse 21. See how the faithful city has become a prostitute? She once was full of justice, righteousness, and used, and righteousness used to dwell in her, but now murderous Jerusalem is personified as a wife who was once faithful and turned to corruption and unfaithfulness.

The city's spiritual decline is described in marital terms. The church is the bride of Christ. And quite often churches have and continue to commit adultery, spiritual adultery. How do they do it? Well? By changing the church to suit certain ideologies that are seen as a sin in the Bible, accommodating sin in ways that lessens the message and impact of God's gospel message.

These are very troubling times, and a lot of that's going on. That's why it's really important that we stay faithful to God through his word, study his Bible, pray constantly for his guiding and leading, and remembering always that we are guided by the our coach, the Holy Spirit, because we ask that in prayer.

Next week I'm gonna be talking about loyalty, which I guess goes hand in hand with spiritual adultery. So until then, let me close with a prayer. Dear Lord, father in heaven, we thank you, Lord for the many blessings you bestow on us. We thank you for the touching way that you have reminded us of the sacrifices of those who love you in a time of crisis.

We pray that you'll be with Charlie Kirk's family. We pray that you'll be with us. We pray that you will lead us to a better place as we contemplate a nation that is striving to know you because it's failing in so many ways. Lord, help us to fill the God shaped hole in ourselves and in our country with you.

We pray in Jesus' name, amen. God bless you. You know he's waiting to, I love doing these little chats with you, and I love doing the daily devotionals, and I'll be back with you next week when we talk about loyalty. Until then, my name's Graham Hood from Church Without Walls. Thanks for being with us. I'm bi.