

The Brown Street Beacon

*"...Shine out among them like beacon lights,
holding out to them the Word of Life" (Phil 2:15-16)*



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Is Fidelity Important?

The traditional vows that are taken when one enters the holy estate of matrimony usually involves the vow *"till death do us part..."* That is a vow that is founded upon the word of God. Jesus said in reference to the marriage relationship, *"...What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder"* (Matthew 19:6). In the previous verse Jesus quoted Genesis 2:24 where we read of marriage being instituted by God. Jesus said, *"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife..."* The word cleave in that passage is "kollao" and means, *"to join fast together, to glue or cement..."* The Greek word for glue is "kolla." Clearly this word points to permanency. One does not glue or cement something together with the purpose of later tearing it apart. Things that are glued or cemented together are meant to stay together forever, and such is the case with those joined together in marriage.

It used to be that most people in society felt that marriage was forever too. Times have changed. Now divorce comes often and many times without remorse. Divorce is no longer viewed as a failure but rather it is thought to be a triumphant end to a bad marriage. There is something else that points to the moral decay of our country. It is the attitude that many have towards faithfulness within the marriage union. In the past (it is starting to seem as the distant past), society viewed those who were unfaithful to their spouse as being terribly immoral. Now adultery is expected and even, believe it or not, encouraged.

Some time ago I came across an article in the Beacon Journal, titled, *"Even Hollywood types stand by their spouses."* In the article there were a few "Hollywood types", such as Billy Crystal and Patrick Swayze, who still believed in being faithful in the marriage relationship. However, many in the article expressed no regard for fidelity in marriage at all. And surprisingly, the article contained several woman indicating that they should be tolerate of their husbands when they go astray.

Raquel Welch indicated that there isn't anything wrong with a man *"breaking away every once in a while."*

Jacqueline Bisset thinks that men should not be held back. She said, *"I'm not saying you have to like all of his behavior, but I believe a degree of acceptance is very important."* Imagine that! We are now being told by these Hollywood experts that woman ought to accept adultery committed by their husbands.

Michelle Pfeiffer is quoted as saying that *“fidelity is possible — anything is possible if you’re stubborn and strong, but it’s not that important.”* Isn’t that a brilliant conclusion? Fidelity is not important. When would such an ignorant statement ever be true? Can you think of a situation where fidelity is not important? I can’t. The word fidelity means, *“faithfulness to obligations, duties, or observances.”* How could any responsible person say that is not important. Is fidelity important in regard to duties or obligations at work? Is it important that children show some fidelity to their parents, i.e., should children be taught to be faithful to duties placed upon them by their parents? Should employers feel any sense of duty when it comes to paying their employees? Of course fidelity is important. Being faithful to one’s duties and obligations is one of the most important characteristics a person can have. It means that he is trustworthy and his word means something. Yes, fidelity is important, and it is especially important to be faithful to one’s spouse. After all, if a wife can’t trust a husband, who can trust him?

Susan Sarandon shows as much intelligence (or lack of it) as did Pfeiffer. She says, *“If someone is very special to you, is it really that important if every now and then he takes off and has a liaison with someone else? I mean, is it really catastrophic?”* Of course it is! It’s sin, and sin is always catastrophic. And the sin of adultery is particularly catastrophic. It is in some cases such a blow to a loving spouse that it simply cannot be forgotten. This is why Jesus made adultery the one reason that would give a spouse a scriptural right to divorce an unfaithful mate (Matthew 19:9).

The kind of attitude expressed by some of these Hollywood personalities explains what is happening in part to the moral fabric of our society today. These statements quoted by some of the most admired people in society (movie stars) reveal much that is wrong with America today. The home is no longer important to many people. True commitment is a lost commodity. The quality of putting someone else (like a loving spouse) before self is no longer deemed as being a good thing. Sin is encouraged. And finally, the statements of these woman indicate the idea that expecting one to exercise a little self-control is unfair and suppressing. No wonder this country is in a mess.

The wisdom revealed by some in this article is clearly the wisdom of the world. Let’s make sure that our ideas and thoughts are developed by the wisdom of God, i.e., by what He has revealed in the scriptures. Adultery is sin because God said it is sin. It may become common in an immoral country like the one in which we presently live, but it is now and will always be sin. Furthermore, it will always be an act condemned by God and that will cause those guilty to spend eternity in a devil’s hell. To me that is pretty catastrophic.

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