



Nuggets 35: The Lies We Tell Ourselves

"God was trying to tell me I should refer her to someone else for counseling, but I convinced myself that I could handle it." This from a minister who left his wife for an affair with a counselee.

We all tell ourselves what we want to hear, but never more so than when we are poised on the edge of an affair. Jeremiah wrote, "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" Here is some cold reality that might save someone:

1. There are few slopes as slippery as sexual and romantic temptation. Every one of us, in the right circumstances, is capable of falling. If we play around the edges of temptation, it is not if but when. Those serious about their vows won't go there.
2. Most Christians who fall morally do so because they are trying to have it both ways. The only place you can be married and single at the same time is in a dream world.
3. You cannot constantly feed on the spirit of our times without setting yourself up to fall. Soaps and sitcoms laugh at (or glory in) promiscuity and adultery. You will go where your mind goes.
4. Philandering becomes addictive. It only takes one drink to undo the recovering alcoholic. For the recovering philanderer, one flirtation.
5. Warning lights flash when you are approaching infidelity. If you don't heed the early ones you reach a momentum that can't stop. To stay faithful, you absolutely must burn the bridges that lead to temptation.
6. God knows you may have unmet needs in your marriage. But you have the option to look for godly solutions. The worst advice you can get is from someone bitter from a marital breakup.
7. Adultery is still adultery. Don't think, "What we have is so beautiful that it must be from God."
8. No one thinking rightly would do what the adulterer does to his/her mate, children, and to those depending on him/her as a role model.

God does not stop loving us because we fall. He forgives the penitent. But how much, much better to avoid the damage to yourself and others and be faithful! The first to agree would be those who have suffered from wrong choices.

Jeremiah 17:9; James 1:13-15; 3:1; 4:4-10; Isaiah 5:20; Genesis 39:1-12; Psalm 119:11; Proverbs 5; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Ephesians 5:3-6; Matthew 18:6-9; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; John 8:2-11

TO SUBSCRIBE free, email subscribe@shbi.org **TO UNSUBSCRIBE** send a blank email to unsubscribe@shbi.org To communicate with us directly, email nuggets@shbi.org **Past issues** of Nuggets are archived at www.shbi.org/content/nuggets/nuggets.htm (you may add this link to your website).

Copyright 2006 by G.B. Shelburne, III. May be freely reproduced or forwarded for non-commercial purposes provided content is unchanged and this copyright notice is included. These shepherding messages are sent to members and friends of New Beginnings Church (www.nbchurch.com), to students and alumni of South Houston Bible Institute (www.shbi.org), and to other interested persons.

Any scripture quotes, unless otherwise indicated, are from the HOLY BIBLE: NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION © 1978 and 1984 by the New York International Bible Society, used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers.

Tuition-free evening classes: www.shbi.org

Distance Learning Bible courses: www.shbi.org/content/distance/distancelearn.htm

To support SHBI's ministry: www.shbi.org/content/finances/finances.htm