

Emotional Attachment

By Anthony N. Wade

There was a very prominent leader in the western world that had a liaison with one of his interns. When confronted about his inappropriate behavior he justified his actions with the infamous answer that he did not have physical relations with that woman.

Although he may not have consummated their relationship in a conventionally normal fashion, it was still labeled a sexual tryst that was not appropriate. To be curt, it was immoral, adulterous, and ungodly. He justified his activity by virtue of the fact that he didn't do anything disgraceful to his partner; it was she that had the majority of the physical contact with him. Alright, let's cut to the chase. She engaged in oral copulation with this popular leader. As previously stated, he said it was not sex – poppycock, with a capital "P." In the words of a fellow minister, anytime you put your mouth on a person's genitals, that is engaging in sexual activity.

THE DANGERS OF EMOTIONAL UNFAITHFULNESS

The point I am making is that long before there was a physical relationship, there was an emotional attachment – emotional infidelity. **In fact, nearly all relationships that end in the physical, began emotionally.** Emotional attachments are very subtle. They can be more treacherous than a blatant physical attraction, which ends with a roll in the hay.

Rebe was a very accomplished musician. She was a wife, and the mother of three lovely children. She wanted to complete her education, so she enrolled in school. There was a part of Rebe that was unfulfilled in her relationship with her husband. Rebe thought that going back to school would fill the vacancy she was having in her marital status. There was an emotional vacuum that was in Rebe's life and she thought it would be filled by going back to college. Now, don't misunderstand me, I celebrate completing, and advancing one's education. It is a wonderful goal to have. However, it shouldn't take the place of a vacuum in one's life. It should be the fulfillment of a dream from a productive and profitable existence.

Little did Rebe know, the devil had a man ready to take advantage of her. As she sat in some of her classes, this man would sit behind her. He would tell her everything that her husband wasn't telling her. Of course this made Rebe feel beautiful, vivacious, and appreciated. This man met the emotional needs that her husband was not fulfilling. By the time Rebe and her husband decided to go for counseling, it was too late. Rebe had been affected by this man's advances. Rebe thought she was in love with both her husband, and the man that sat behind her. How can that be? She was in love with her husband strictly based on the physical relationship she had with him. Yet, she was in lust with the stranger that sat behind her. The intruder met an emotional need that she was so wanting, and needed to be filled.

The problem that Rebe had was twofold. 1. Her husband was negligent in meeting her emotional needs. 2. She was emotionally starving to the point that her defenses were not strong enough to push away the advances from a casual acquaintance.

WHAT HAVE I DONE?

Male and female, husband and wife, married or single, we need to be on the alert for emotional attachments – emotional infidelity. Jedidiah was married to his wife for twenty-nine years. They had a very vibrant marriage that produced four boys. His four sons were adults, and married. Jed's wife was a very loving person, a beautiful woman, and marvelous mother. However, she became seriously ill, and was not able to overcome the disease. The illness got the best of her, and she died a premature death. Needless to say, this left Jed in an unfamiliar place in his life. For most of his adult life he had always had his wife, Paula, by his side, aiding him in whatever was needed.

A number of years after Paula's death, Jed met a friend at a social at his church. She was single as he, and looking for a nice friend as well. However, Jed's friend Pelar, was only interested in friendship, nothing more, and nothing less. Jed and Pelar began spending significant amounts of time with each other, which caused Jedidiah to look at their friendship as possibly something more than just a casual acquaintance. Jed was falling in love with Pelar, and had a dreadful time letting her know his true feelings. After all, it had been a couple of years since they met, and out of those twenty-four months they had spent virtually every day with each other. Pelar didn't see anything wrong with spending large amounts of time with Jed, and justified their behavior as alright, because they were just friends. However, the Bible renders this type of activity as having the appearance of evil.

1 Thessalonians 5:22 KJV

{22} Abstain from all appearance of evil.

Jedidiah couldn't take it anymore. He had to tell Pelar how he felt, and he did. Pelar brushed it off, and continued to take advantage of Jed. She took advantage of the fact that Jed had fallen in love with her. She didn't think much of the scripture that tells us to stay away from the appearance of evil.

She justified her behavior, and very glibly said, "All I want is a friendship with Jed, nothing more, nothing less". Pelar really didn't care about Jed or herself. All she wanted was male friendship. She didn't care how it looked.

Without knowing it, Pelar prostituted Jedidiah. She took what she could get from him, and when he let his true feelings be known she threw him away, much like you would a tissue paper. This scenario was an unhealthy, ungodly, relationship gone bad.

Jedidiah did his best to communicate his feelings for Pelar, but she was to a fault, callous – too unloving to consider someone else's feelings. Her attitude was "I don't want to be married. Jed should get a life".

There should have been boundaries placed around Jedidiah and Pelar's emotional instability. The greatest boundary is what the Word of God says.

Bottom line, if it looks like it is evil, it is evil. If it has the appearance that something is not right, you can rest assured, something is not right. It might take some time for it to come to light, but sooner or later it will come to the surface. Pelar was constantly saying, "What have I done?" "I haven't done anything wrong!"

"The Bible renders this type of activity as having the appearance of evil."

IT IS PROHIBITED

Jed and Pelar did an abundance of unethical things by failing to observe the scripture in (1 Thessalonians 5:22). One of the operative words in that verse is, "abstain". Which simply means one must discipline themselves to stay away from a certain type of behavior. (See 1 Peter 2:11-12)

In the case of spending considerable amounts of time with the opposite sex that you are not married to, it is prohibited.

Jasper was a single man with people skills in abundance. He was extremely popular with the ladies and would take advantage of his popularity. He had befriended Janet, and they became

an item. Jasper and Janet thought nothing of spending substantial amounts of time with each other; even nights together.

Although they were not married, it became common for them to engage in premarital sex. This behavior was permitted by both Jasper and Janet, because they didn't put a guard around their hearts. Their minds, wills, and emotions became infected with an emotional attachment – emotional infidelity, and their physical bodies cooperated with that attraction. Because their guard was lowered in their emotions, it was easy to justify their loose morals.

Proverbs 4:23 KJV

{23} Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

Jasper was a gospel concert promoter, and would bring very popular artists to the city he lived in at the time. He thought nothing of his lifestyle while he continued to wheel and deal to get the favorite bands, artists, and groups into the metropolis to have enormous gospel concerts. Jasper had become good friends with one of the lead singers of a very successful group that he had promoted.

However, this lead singer caught on to Jasper's loose lifestyle. After much prayer and preparation the singer confronted Jasper. The singer realized that Jasper was not going to change his way of life, so he decided to let their friendship expire. It was not worth destroying everything the group had accomplished because of a friendship with someone that had loose morals. In addition, the lead singer's relationship with The Lord Jesus Christ was more important than that of one who would not crucify his flesh, and live for the Lord. Jasper was crushed at the decision of the lead singer, but there was much at stake. Jasper was a confessing Christian, living a very undisciplined way of life.

The lead singer's decision to delete their friendship was very serious. It is a known fact that the people we are around, and have befriended, speaks volumes about who we are. The people that we choose to be in our lives will determine where we will, or will not be. One author puts it this way:

“The closest people to you will determine the outcome of your life. The single most important factor is the relationships you embrace. The value you place on any relationship is immediately revealed by the price you are willing to pay for it.”

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