

- a. Spiritual adultery is of manifold significance; it is very serious. God in Jesus Christ has given Himself to us for our salvation – His *very life* for ours. He continues to give Himself to us by His Holy Spirit even while He intercedes for us. He is for us in every manner of our being and has committed Himself to us Father, Son and Spirit.

Yet, we leave Him. His rulership means little to us. Following His commands means little to us. We give Him a slice of our lives (at best) and think we're doing Him a favor.

James use of “adultery” is startling and it should be. You know what adultery means to a relationship. The offended now has with him (or her)¹ someone who's been soiled, touched by another. The offended now has with him one who chose to leave so that she could give herself to another. There has been a breach, a betrayal.

- When we leave our Husband, we tell Him that what He's done for us and is doing for us is not good enough; we need more and we're going to get it ourselves since He obviously failed.

Brothers and sisters do not minimize what James is teaching. Do not whitewash your sins. Instead consider what they really mean and repent.

- b. Think through your quarrels, disagreements, battles and fights. According to James, if you are in one with someone it is very likely that you are in one because you are in bed with a ruling heart rider.

We must know our heart suitors. Answer this question as a way to investigate who and what they may be:

I would only be happy in this situation if _____

- c. If we can commit spiritual adultery quickly and often, then it is likely that much of our prayer life is passion-based and will go unanswered.

Passion-based prayer is clear because it **asks for ungodly things**

Passion-based prayer is clear because it **asks for untimely things**

Passion-based prayer is clear because it **is overly emotional.**

It is angry

It is escapist

It is impatient

Passion-based prayer is clear because it **is connected to sin.**

Evaluate your prayer times – of what do they consist? Are they times of adoration and confession? Could they be in the Book of Psalms?

¹ Please understand my use of pronouns is simply following English grammar; men just as well as women perpetrate spiritual adultery.