

Sexual Temptations at Workplace

I| Biblical Passage: Judah Vs. Joseph (Gen 38:15,16 Judah cf. 39:8-13 Joseph)

Joseph took great pains to make sure they were never alone together. That is why verse 11 makes a point of noting that, on one particular day, it did not work out that way.

Isn't this a stark contrast from what we saw in Joseph's brother Judah in chapter 38? Judah walked right up to the seductress; Joseph avoided her altogether. What about you? Do you take great pains not to be alone with a member of the opposite sex? This is the only sure way to avoid temptation—and false accusation.¹

II| Definition

“Affairs” and “Adultery” --- In an affair a married person begins to allow someone other than his or her spouse to meet emotional and eventually sexual needs that should be met only by one's spouse. An affair is not synonymous with adultery (i.e., a sexual relationship with someone other than one's spouse), for people can commit adultery without developing an emotional relationship (e.g., a sexual encounter with a prostitute), and the early stages of many affairs do not include adultery.²

III| Reasons

- 1) Unhealthy personality styles
- 2) Sexual addictions
- 3) Did not resolve developmental situation successfully
- 4) Exposed to temptation-filled situations
- 5) Unconscious, unrealistic, or uncommunicated expectations they hold
- 6) The faithful partner fails to meet realistic, communicated requests of the spouse
- 7) Ego needs unmet
- 8) Psychopathology in the faithful partner

“If you are thinking to yourself, ‘An affair could never happen to me,’ you are in trouble. To believe we are immune leaves us wide open and unprotected.”³

¹ Strassner, K. (2009). *Opening up Genesis* (152). Leominster: Day One Publications.

² Benner, D. G., & Hill, P. C. (1999). *Baker encyclopedia of psychology & counseling* (2nd ed.). Baker reference library (53). Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books.

³ Benner, D. G., & Hill, P. C. (1999). *Baker encyclopedia of psychology & counseling* (2nd ed.). Baker reference library (53–54). Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books.

IV| Why and When We're Most Vulnerable

- 1) Life impotence ---
 - A) *In time of failure and struggle*
 - B) *Shortly after a big achievement*
- 2) Middle age⁴

V| Warning Signs

1) External Danger Signs:

- A) *Growing dependence*
- B) *Affirmation and praise*
- C) *Complaints about loneliness*
- D) *Giving gifts*
- E) *Physical contact*
- F) *Other seductive behavior*

2) Internal Dangers Signs:

- A) *Thinking about her*
- B) *Comparing her to my wife*
- C) *Finding excuses to be with her*
- D) *Beginning to have sexual fantasies about her*
- E) *Scheming ways to be alone*
- F) *Wanting to share my marital problems with the client*⁵

Self check --- The questions with which I check myself: *Do I look forward in a special way to my appointments with this person? Would I rather see her than my wife? Do I seek to meet with her away from my office in a more casual environment? Do I prefer that my co-workers not know I'm meeting with her again?* An affirmative answer to any of these questions is, for me, a warning light.⁶

VII| Practical Guidelines for Sexual Purity

- 1) *Monitoring my spiritual pulse*
- 2) *Guarding my marriage*
- 3) *Taking precautions*
- 4) *Dealing with the subtle signs of sexual attraction*

⁴ Kesler, J. (1988). *Vol. 13: Being holy, being human : Dealing with the expectations of ministry*. The Leadership library (142–144). Carol Stream, Ill.; Waco, Tex.: CTI; Word Books.

⁵ Muck, T. C. (1989). *Vol. 19: Sins of the body : Ministry in a sexual society*. The Leadership library (97–106). Carol Stream, Ill.; Waco, Tex.: Christianity Today; Word Books; Distributed by Word Books.

⁶ Muck, T. C. (1989). *Vol. 19: Sins of the body : Ministry in a sexual society*. The Leadership library (112). Carol Stream, Ill.; Waco, Tex.: Christianity Today; Word Books; Distributed by Word Books.

- 5) *Backing off early*
 - 6) *Clearing cloudy thoughts*
 - 7) *Holding myself accountable*
 - 8) *Guarding my mind.*
 - 9) *Regularly rehearsing the consequences*⁷
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- 10) Contextualization⁸

VIII] Conclusion: Settle for an “F”

The problem of adultery is as difficult as the dangers are real. Why else would so many seriously committed ministers fall into it? The vulnerability of our position on the one hand and the powerful effect of feelings on the other set us up.

Only by staying alert to the possibility of trouble, keeping our marriage vital and growing, and watching for the danger signs can we be sure to survive. We can do it. We do have a choice.

For once in our lives, let's not strive for an “A”—at least not the scarlet variety. Let's settle for a true-blue “F”—for faithful.⁹

VIII] Discussion

- 1) Do you believe falling into the sexual temptation at work can happen to you?
- 2) Are you currently been tempted? Do you see any signs of sexual temptation at your workplace?
- 3) Do you have any safe guard against falling into such temptation at work? Do they work?
- 4) What other safe guard that you can share with each other?

⁷ Muck, T. C. (1989). *Vol. 19: Sins of the body : Ministry in a sexual society*. The Leadership library (110–117). Carol Stream, Ill.; Waco, Tex.: Christianity Today; Word Books; Distributed by Word Books.

⁸ Kesler, J. (1988). *Vol. 13: Being holy, being human : Dealing with the expectations of ministry*. The Leadership library (146–149). Carol Stream, Ill.; Waco, Tex.: CTI; Word Books.

⁹ Muck, T. C. (1989). *Vol. 19: Sins of the body : Ministry in a sexual society*. The Leadership library (97–106). Carol Stream, Ill.; Waco, Tex.: Christianity Today; Word Books; Distributed by Word Books.

