

SPIRITUAL HARLOTRY

We will begin by giving a general definition of harlot, adultery, and fornication.

- Harlot is one who prostitutes by selling sexual favors.
- Adultery is sexual infidelity regarding marriage.
- Fornication is sexual relations between singles as well as various forms of sexual perversions.

Spiritual harlotry is when a believer prostitutes himself with the false religion of Baalism or with self-gratification of Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (OMCD) false beliefs. (1 Cor.6: 13-20).

We will study our lesson text by the following three homiletical points involved in spiritual Harlotry.

- Ungodly (8:33)
- Unfaithful (8:34)
- Unkind (8:35)

This lesson will study FIVE aspects of Spiritual Harlotry after the death of Gideon.

1. It is important to understand the role of the priest nation of Israel in the plan of God.

Israel was the only nation founded on regeneration (Rom.9-11). “Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.” (Rom.9:5)

“In other words, it is not the natural children who are God’s children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham’s offspring.” (Rom.9:8)

Therefore, Israel was the priest-nation during the Jewish dispensation (Ex.19: 6).

Israel was sternly warned against engaging in the worship of the pagan, cultural religions of the land of Palestine (Deut.4: 25-31; 17:9-16; 28: 1-14) blessings and (28:15-68) cursing.

2. It is specifically stated that the Israelites “again played the harlot with the Baals.” (8:33).

“**Again**” is a key word of **Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (OMCD) thinking**. “Again” means that before Gideon led them in a spiritual reformation, they were engaged in baalism. It also reminds us that they were under divine disciplined by the Lord for it when Gideon came onto the scene.

Returning to baalism reflects a pattern of **Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (OMCD) thinking** in them. “You were taught, with regard to your **former way of life**, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires.” (Eph.4:22)

It is obvious that the Israelites didn’t put their former way of life off (baalism). **So what did they do?**

3. Under Gideon’s spiritual leadership, they participated in spiritual reformation rather than spiritual transformation (Rom.12: 2).

Under spiritual reformation, they dressed up OMCD in religious garments (religious hypocrisy) – “thus the sons of Israel did not remember the Lord their God, who had delivered them from the hands of their enemies on every side.” (8:34)

They returned to conformation living rather than transformation living (Rom.12: 2). Transformation is putting off OMCD by the renewing of the mind and putting on New Man Divine Viewpoint (NMDV) thinking. (Eph.4: 22-24; 2 Cor.10: 2-5).

OMCD can be manifested either in lascivious religion like baalism or ascetic religion like legalism (Matt.21: 31-32). Both are considered Spiritual Harlotry.

4. By going back to Baal worship, these Israelites engaged in reverse process reversionsim (Jer. 2:20-25; Ezek. 16:6-8, 15-29).

When there is chaos in soul, there will be chaos in divine institution where that individual has authority of choice (1 Pet.2: 11) Divine Institutions (DI) #1, 2, 3 and 4 (1 Cor.14: 33).

Reverse Process Reversionism (RPR) is seen in Luke 16:13 (Baal vs. Lord God).

5. Under Gideon’s spiritual leadership, they lived in blessings by association.

Living by blessings by association can be a double-edged sword. Living off someone else’s faith and blessings can also mean living off someone else’s spiritual failures and cursing (Gideon’s Ephod and promiscuity).

As a double-edged sword, they can turn against the grace believer during either the time of blessings or cursing. “Nor did they show kindness to the household of Jerubaal (that is, Gideon), in accord with all the good that he had done to Israel.” (8:35)

Why do you think that the Lord recorded the name Jeubaal rather than Gideon in our lesson text? What does the name Jerubaal mean in Hebrew? (6:31-32) _____

- **How do you think this lesson could apply to a church age believer?**
- **How do you think this lesson could apply to you personally?**
- **What point did you get from this lesson? (2 Tim.3:16-17)**