



Dealing with Affairs in Marriage

This "PASTOR'S GUIDE SHEET" was developed by Dr. Joe K. Taylor, Senior Pastor, South Reno Baptist Church, Reno, NV • jtaylor@southreno.com
Scriptures are printed verbatim with references noted but highlights and underlines are added. Quotes and all primary sources are footnoted.

1. There is always hope: *"Love covers a multitude of sins"*
2. You will have to lean on God as never before for the miracle you will need.
3. Trust is developed over a long period of time but can be lost in a moment. Trust, not the goal of a relationship but the result of three other goals being maintained consistently, is the greatest concern in this marriage. Trust develops when the following goals are being met: predictability, credibility, and transparency. Let's discuss them:
 - A. Predictability—staying in the same "life patterns".
 - B. Credibility—doing exactly what you say you are going to do.
 - C. Transparency—being completely open with your mate about everything.
4. General confession *without detailed specifics* is important but understand that when verifiable facts are absent, there will always be doubt. (Doubt is a big deal and can kill a relationship.)
5. A sincere apology—in grand fashion—must be made!
6. Break ALL contact with the other person. *There can be no compromising at this point!*
7. Develop accountability with a *neutral* third person.
8. Get into a good counseling program—*this is a must!*
9. If the decision is made to "recover" from the affair, there needs to be a day when a moratorium is placed on the infidelity. When that date comes, no longer will there be any reference to that failure.
10. Renew your wedding vows and plan a honeymoon once things have stabilized.
11. Plan on two full years for a *general* recovery once serious *rescue* begins.

What causes divorce: (Top 10 reasons* in the U.S. according to a GGBTS Ph.D. Dissertation/Study)

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| 1. Financial | 6. Anger/Physical abuse |
| 2. "In-laws" | 7. Abandonment |
| 3. Moral failures (Adultery/emotional) | 8. Different sexual expectations |
| 4. Alcohol | 9. Boredom |
| 5. Anger/Emotional Abuse | 10. Other issues |

* "Lack of communication" was included in each item

"The reasons are endless, but in reality there is only one—a refusal (for some reason) on the part of either husband or wife, or both, to carry out their "vow" in marriage."

SCRIPTURE RESOURCE GUIDE

1 Peter 4:8, The Living Bible - ⁸ *Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love makes up for many of your faults.*

1 Corinthians 13:5, The Living Bible - ⁵ *never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do it wrong.*

Ephesians 4:26-27, The Living Bible - ²⁶ *If you are angry, don't sin by nursing your grudge. Don't let the sun go down with you still angry—get over it quickly; ²⁷ for when you are angry, you give a mighty foothold to the devil.*

Hebrews 12:15, The Living Bible - ¹⁵ *Look after each other so that not one of you will fail to find God's best blessings. Watch out that no bitterness takes root among you, for as it springs up it causes deep trouble, hurting many in their spiritual lives.*

James 5:16, The Living Bible - ¹⁶ *Admit your faults to one another and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous man has great power and wonderful results.*

2 Corinthians 2:6-8, The Living Bible - ⁵ *Remember that the man I wrote about, who caused all the trouble, has not caused sorrow to me as much as to all the rest of you—though I certainly have my share in it too. I don't want to be harder on him than I should. He has been punished enough by your united disapproval. ⁷ Now it is time to forgive him and comfort him. Otherwise he may become so bitter and discouraged that he won't be able to recover. ⁸ Please show him now that you still do love him very much.*

Proverbs 17:22, NLT - ²² *A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit saps a person's strength.*

Philippians 4:6-8, The Message - ⁶ *Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. ⁷ Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life. ⁸ Summing it all up, friends, I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse.*

1 Peter 5:7, NLT - ⁷ *Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.*

1 John 1:8-9, NASB95 - ⁸ *If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

NOTE: Your responsibility to forgive your spouse always takes precedence over your right to divorce.