

List of Anticipated Consequences of Immorality

Adapted from Randy Alcorn

Sinning Against God

- Grieving my Lord who redeemed me; displeasing the One whose opinion matters most.
- Dragging Christ's sacred name and reputation through the mud.
- Loss of reward and commendation from God.
- One day, having to look Jesus in the face, as the Righteous Judge, to give an account of my actions.

Pleasing Satan

- Bringing great pleasure to Satan, the Enemy of God.
- Laughter, rejoicing, and blasphemous smugness by those who disrespect God and the Church. (2 Samuel 12:14)

Hurting Spouse / Children

- Causing disgrace to my family. Forcing them to endure cruel comments from others or having to offer explanations to others.
- Inflicting untold hurt to (spouse's name), my best friend and loyal partner.
- Losing (spouse's) respect and trust.
- Deeply hurting my beloved children, (list names). Destroying my example and credibility in their eyes and nullifying both present and future efforts to teach them to obey God. ("Why listen to a man/woman who betrayed Mom/Dad and us?")
- If my blindness were to continue or my family would be unable to forgive me, I could lose my spouse and my children forever.

Inflicting Self Pain

- Losing self-respect.
- Discrediting my own name.
- Invoking shame and lifelong embarrassment upon myself.
- Experiencing guilt that would be awfully hard to shake—even though God would forgive me, would I forgive myself?
- Plaguing flashbacks and reminders.
- Memories that could taint future intimacy with my spouse.
- Being haunted by my sin as I look in the eyes of others and having it all dredged up again wherever I go and whatever I do.
- Possibly bearing the physical consequences of my sin. Contracting diseases such as gonorrhea, syphilis, chlamydia, herpes, or AIDS. Experiencing the associated pain of the disease - a constant reminder to me and my spouse. Bearing the responsibility of potentially infecting (spouse) with disease, or in the case of AIDS, even causing my spouse's death or my own.
- Possible pregnancy with its lifelong personal and financial commitment and implications.

Damaging Personal / Vocational Ministry

- Sacrificing my calling.
- Disqualifying myself after having preached to others.
- Surrendering the ministry practices I love to do—teaching, training, and ministering to others.
- Forfeiting the effect of years of witnessing to others.
- Wasting years of ministry training and experience because my sin prevents me from continuing to minister for a long time, maybe permanently.
- Invariably having to explain why I am not in vocational ministry anymore.
- Forever relinquishing certain opportunities to serve God.

Jeopardizing Christian Witness

- Causing disgrace to my church family.
- Hurting and dishonoring my fellow ministry partners and church leaders: (list names)
- Undermining the faithful example, hard work, and prayers of other Christians serving our community.
- Communicating to the broader community a message of hypocrisy: “Who can take seriously anything this person and their church have said and done?”
- Reinforcing distrust for Christians / ministers.

Negatively Impacting Others

- Heaping judgment and endless problems on the person with whom I would have committed adultery.
- Following in the footsteps of known men and women whose immorality forfeited their ministry and caused me to shudder: (list names).
- Causing disgrace and hurt to my friends, and especially those I have led to Christ and disciplined: (list names)
- Suffering of innocent people around me who would get hit by my shrapnel (like Achan in Joshua 7).

<https://www.epm.org/blog/2009/Jun/26/counting-the-cost-of-sexual-immorality>