

Deut 6:5

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

I remember years ago as a young man in my late teens, how I went out with a girl that was divorced. We knew each other when she was married, but it wasn't until after she divorced her husband that we went out. I still remember to this day one thing that she said to me. She said, "*When I was married, if you would have said the word, I would have left my husband for you.*" Wow, was all I could think, not that it made me feel good or think I was some hot guy at the time, but rather it made me think, "*Why would I want to continue this relationship? What guy will come along next that she would be willing to leave me for?*" So I broke it off after that.

I know it sounds kind of crazy, but it is a true story and this was before I was a Christian. I have also heard of similar stories, with the result ending up in divorce and/or adultery. It happens a lot in marriages in the world, but sad to say that it happens with Christians as well.

When this happens, one is saying that they prefer someone else over his or her spouse. In other words, what they are saying is that one flesh that they became one with when they got married, now wants to become one flesh with someone else at the same time.

Remember that Jesus said that, "***For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.***" Matt 19:5-6

Yet how often do we commit spiritual adultery against God?
How so? Read today's devotional verse again.

† ***You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.***

Now, who or what are you putting before God?
What's more important to you than God? Could it be a TV show, a football game, clothing, the internet, food, money, alcohol, drugs, anger, abuse, your job, your car, etc...
Or who is more important to you than God? Is your spouse, children, friends, boy or girlfriend, relative, coworker etc...

How do you know who or what you are putting before God? Ask yourself, is that football game keeping you from going to church on Sundays? Are the things that you buy so important that now you can't tithe or give back to God because you just had to have those things?

What about that ungodly relationship? Are you a believer dating a non-believer, or are you sleeping with someone outside of marriage, or with someone who is married to someone else? Is your family more important to you than the Lord is?

Remember Jesus said: ***He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.*** Matt 10:37

Jesus is not saying not to love your family and not to put them before others. No, He is saying that you are to love and take care of them, but not more than you love God.

We need to stop saying, "I love you Lord" while in the back of our minds we are thinking, "but I also love _____ too, even if I have to push God aside to have it."

I know that's hard to take in, but is it true?

Stop and ask God, "Who or what am I putting before You?" Then repent and get rid of it or the relationship (unless you are married to the person) and give your heart totally to the Lord, and never take it from Him ever again.

† **Romans 8:35-39** *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Who or what are you allowing to separate you *from the love of God*?