

Proverbs 6:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.

Analysis

Adultery destroys the soul—not merely social reputation but one's deepest being. The Hebrew 'nephesh' (soul) encompasses the whole person in relationship with God. Sexual sin violates God's image, covenant fidelity, and one's own integrity, leaving spiritual devastation requiring God's redeeming grace.

Historical Context

Mosaic law prescribed death for adultery (Leviticus 20:10), showing its covenant-breaking severity. Though civil penalties changed, the spiritual and relational destruction remains constant across ages.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How seriously do you regard sexual sin compared to Scripture's assessment?

2. What safeguards protect your heart from sexual temptation's soul-destroying power?

Interlinear Text

נֹאֵף	אִשָּׁה	חָסֵר	לִב	מְשִׁחַת יָת
But whoso committeth adultery	with a woman	lacketh	understanding	it destroyeth
H5003	H802	H2638	H3820	H7843
נַפְשׁוֹ	הוא	עֹשֶׂהָ:		
his own soul	H1931	he that doeth		
H5315		H6213		

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 7:7 (Parallel theme): And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding,

Hebrews 13:4 (Parallel theme): Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

Jeremiah 5:21 (Parallel theme): Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not:

Exodus 20:14 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Genesis 41:39 (Parallel theme): And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art: