

Consequences of a Moral Fall

When I feel particularly vulnerable to sexual temptation, I find it helpful to review what effects my action could have:

- Grieving the Lord who redeemed me.
- Dragging His sacred name into the mud.
- One day having to look Jesus, the Righteous Judge, in the face and give an account of my actions.
- Following in the footsteps of those people whose immorality forfeited their ministries and caused me to shudder.
- Inflicting untold hurt on my loyal wife, my best friend.
- Hurting my beloved children.
- Destroying my example and credibility with my children and nullifying both present and future efforts to teach them to obey God (*Why listen to a man who betrayed mom and us?*)
- If my blindness should continue or my wife be unable to forgive, perhaps losing my wife and children forever.
- Causing shame to my family (*Why isn't daddy a pastor anymore?*)
- Losing self-respect.
- Creating a form of guilt awfully hard to shake. Even though God would forgive me, would I forgive myself?
- Forming memories and flashbacks that could plague future intimacy with my wife.
- Wasting years of ministry training and experience for a long time, maybe permanently.
- Undermining the faithful example and hard work of other Christians in our community.
- Heaping judgment and endless difficulty on the person with whom I committed adultery.
- Possibly bearing the physical consequences of such diseases as gonorrhea, syphilis, herpes and AIDS; perhaps infecting my wife, or in the case of AIDS, even causing her death.
- Possibly causing pregnancy, with the personal and financial implications, including a lifelong reminder of my sin.
- Bringing shame and hurt to fellow pastors and elders.
- Causing shame and hurt to friends, especially those who I've led to Christ and disciplined.
- Invoking shame and lifelong embarrassment upon myself.

--Randy Alcorn, *Leadership Magazine*



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