



THE CONSEQUENCES OF MORAL FAILURE

BY RANDY ALCORN

FROM MICHAEL J. BURNS - Before I share the Consequences of a moral failure by Randy Alcorn I want to share a powerfully true story of a dear pastor friend. *Pastor Alan Granger*, who is now in heaven, shared with me the following account.

One day as I was in my church office I was awaiting a counseling appointment when a woman who had made the appointment showed up. She came in and shut my office door and walked over to my desk and put a hotel room key down and told me that she **wanted me**. That if I would come to this hotel room that evening she would satisfy every sexual desire that I had. *She would make my sexual fantasies come true!*

How would you respond to such a proposition? I asked her to sit down and asked her if she knew my story of how I came to the Lord. Although she was unsure of the many facts she said that she knew some of the story. I asked her if she knew that I had been arrested for armed robbery? If she knew that my wife and her dad, who was a pastor, would come to the jail to minister to the inmates?

Their regular visits to the jail were something that I looked forward to as this pastor's daughter would play the guitar and sing and the father would walk up and down between the prison bars and preach the gospel. I was smitten with this pastor's daughter and we became friends. As my sentencing date came nigh she taught me **2 Corinthians 5:17** and that *since I had received Christ that I was now a new creature in Christ and the old life was gone and a new one had begun.*

When I stood before the judge and pleaded guilty of armed robbery, the **State of New Mexico Judge sentenced me to 50 years in the Penitentiary** and then asked me after this harsh sentence if I had any thing I would like to say to the court? **I looked up at the judge and said, "It really doesn't matter what you do to me because I have accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and am now a new creation in Him. The old life is gone and a new life has begun in me.**

The judge looked down and thought a moment and then said, **"I am suspending the first 45 years of that sentence!"** That pastor's daughter took my collect long distance phone calls and would drive several hours each week to visit me as my relationship with Jesus grew as did my love for her. She did this for more than two and one half years. When I got out of prison we were married. We went to *Christ For The Nations Institute* in Dallas where I attended Bible School for 3 years preparing for the ministry.

I was a full time student and my wife worked a full time job so that I could focus on my studies. She sacrificed for me! We eventually came back to Las Cruces and helped my Father in law until his retirement and I became the Senior Pastor of this church. My wife has been my greatest friend. I

watched her carry my daughters twice in her womb for 9 grueling months and then I saw her travail as she split and bled in her body to give birth to them.

My wife has believed in me, cooked for me, cleaned up after me, been my lover and the greatest mother to my two children. **I tell you all of this because I want to know why you thought you could come into my office, drop a hotel key on my desk and think I would come running into your arms? *Lady, my wife has earned the right to my body!*** How dare you think that you would have the same right as my darling wife to such intimacy with me!

When Alan shared this story with me as a newly married husband, I can honestly say that it made a such a mark on my life that it has been a constant reminder to me of the value my wife Cynthia has been to me that I will NEVER FORGET!

HERE IS THE ARTICLE BY RANDY ALCORN

"It is God's will that I should be sanctified: that I should avoid sexual immorality" (1 Thessalonians 4:3).

Whenever I feel vulnerable to sexual temptation, I find it helpful to review the consequences 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 or, should I continue in sin and fail to repent, facing the Father in the great White Throne Judgment and spending eternity in Hell.

- Following in the footsteps of those people whose immorality forfeited their ministries and caused great disrepute to the Cause of Christ.
 - Inflicting untold hurt on my best friend and loyal wife, and severely jeopardizing my marriage.
 - Losing my wife's respect and trust.
 - Severely impairing my wife's call to ministry.
 - 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?").
 - Setting an example I would never want my children to follow.
 - If my blindness should continue or my wife be unable to forgive, losing my wife and my 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, perhaps permanently.
 - Forfeiting the effect of years of witnessing to my unsaved loved ones and friends and reinforcing their distrust for ministers that has begun to soften by my example but would harden, perhaps permanently, because of my immorality.
 - Undermining the faithful example and hard work of other Christians in our community.
 - Bringing great pleasure to Satan, the archenemy of God and all that is good.

- Heaping judgment and endless difficulty on the person with whom I committed adultery and bringing great harm, perhaps destruction, to her marriage and home.
- Possibly bearing the physical consequences of such diseases as gonorrhea, syphilis, chlamydia, herpes, and AIDS; even death.
- Possibly causing pregnancy, with the personal and financial implications, including a lifelong reminder of my sin.
- Bringing shame and hurt to the Church, my denomination and fellow pastors.
- Causing shame and hurt to my many friends, especially those I've led to Christ and disciplined.
- A major emphasis in my life has been in "staying connected" and seeking to have a lifelong impact on the [lives](#) of those I minister to. What a terrible example I would be unto many.
- Causing all the years I have invested building the ministry to be put to shame. The result would be that the ministry would be severely impacted or destroyed.
- Becoming a stumbling block to those in my present church, creating mistrust and suspicion for all future ministers they will have.
- Invoking shame and life-long embarrassment upon myself.

This material is adapted from a 1998 "Leadership" magazine article by Randy Alcorn and [Eternal Perspective Ministries](#) and is personalized for my own use and personal impact.

For more information and assistance visit www.blainebartel.com/katharos for help with pornography and the consequences of an affair in your life. For more information on MJB Ministries please visit www.mjbministries.org.