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CHAPTER SEVEN

Family



Financial Dishonesty

Sex may be the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word “infidelity,” but there are other ways spouses are unfaithful and cheat on each other.

Many couples commit monetary deceit in their marriages. Someone lies about finances or doesn't share the details. It can be innocuous, such as fudging on the cost of purchases or hiding a spending decision. Or it could be more significant, such as having a secret credit card or bank account, serious enough to be considered what some relationship experts call “financial infidelity.”

Money Dates

To promote transparent communication, I recommend that married couples take a weekly *money date*. This is something you can do at home at the kitchen table, or wherever you choose. Select an appropriate time during the week to focus on your finances by praying together, reviewing your income and spending for the week, and by celebrating the progress the Lord has enabled you to make.

These weekly money dates are vital because they establish the habit of regular financial conversations *when there is no crisis*. Many couples don't begin a conversation about money unless a problem has surfaced and the panic button has already been punched. Tension can reach the boiling point in a hurry when blame and defensiveness take over. That's when it gets personal and hurtful, with a couple screaming at each other instead of working to resolve the problem.

Praying together should be the first agenda item on your money date. I can't emphasize this too much. Jesus makes this remarkable promise in Matthew 18:19-20: *"If two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them."*

When a couple prays together about their finances, they learn what is truly important to their mate. What's more, they invite the God of the universe to be personally involved with their earning and spending. How is that for motivation to pray together!



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