

WoW Nation

Scripture: "Skin for skin!" Satan replied. "A man will give all he has for his own life. But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face." The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head. Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes. His wife said to him, "Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!" He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" In all this, Job did not sin in what he said. (Job 2:4-10 NIV)

Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk

Several years ago, the US Department of Transportation and the Ad Council joined forces to create the ever popular "Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk" campaign to change the way Americans think about drinking and driving. According to information posted on the National Highway Transportation and Safety Administration's website ([NHTSA Designated Driver Program](#)), the campaign has been effective in that more than 80% of Americans report having seen or heard one of the public service announcements that's part of the campaign. And nearly 80% of Americans report taking action to prevent a friend or loved one from driving while drunk.

Just like friends have a responsibility to prevent loved ones from driving while under the influence of alcohol, they also have a responsibility to try to prevent loved ones from engaging in other acts that may be detrimental to themselves or others. Case in point, Job. In the theme scripture for this study, Job was in turmoil because he was being tried by Satan. He'd lost his health, his children and his wealth. And at the time when he most needed comfort and wise counsel, Job's wife, of all people, gave him the worst advice imaginable. She urged him to curse God and die (Job 2:9). Thankfully, Job was as wise as he was righteous. He dismissed her foolish remark and remained faithful to God (v. 10). For his steadfast faithfulness, God rewarded Job with restored health, more children and increased wealth (Job 42:10-17).

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Unfortunately, the case of Mrs. Job isn't an isolated incident. To this day, friends and loved ones still sometimes offer misguided advice. For example, an acquaintance we'll call "Magdalene" once shared with me the advice which a supposed girlfriend, we'll call "Leah", had given her in response to Magdalene's complaints about her marriage. According to Magdalene, Leah advised her to "Just do what I do. Go on out and have an affair." Upon hearing the remark, my initial thoughts were pretty similar to Job's in response to his wife. *What kind of foolishness is this?* Though I never said a word, that was the thought that crossed my mind as Magdalene relayed the story to me. And while I immediately recognized the so-called advice for what it was—foolishness, Magdalene actually seemed like she was contemplating it. She seemed like she might actually follow Leah's lead. (*Ugh!*) In recommending that Magdalene have an affair, in effect, Leah had advised her friend to do the following:

- To dishonor the vows that she made with God on her wedding day
- To disrespect her husband, the man for whom she vowed to forsake all others
- To invite sin and all its harmful consequences and repercussions into her life

So much for friendly advice. As disturbing as that scenario is, again, it's not an isolated incident. *Bad advice abounds.* It's broadcast freely over TV and radio waves. It's transmitted worldwide at warp speed via digital broadcast signals. It's being dispensed around water coolers and in break rooms at work. It's being shared in hair salons and locker rooms from coast to coast. It's even being printed in glossy magazines and best-selling books. Perhaps the worst incidence of bad advice that I've seen of late involves a popular website. The actual slogan and tag line from the site are as follows:

SLOGAN: *"Life is short. Have an affair."*

TAG LINE: *"The most recognized name in infidelity. As seen on Dr. Phil, Tyra, CNN, The View, Ellen, Larry King, Good Morning America."*

"We are the most recognized and reputable extramarital affair company. Our married dating services work. We are the most successful website for finding cheating partners."

The information shown above was copied *verbatim* from the website's home page. Talk about foolishness, those statements are the epitome of foolishness which *Merriam-Webster's Online Dictionary* equates with words like absurdity, brainlessness, craziness, folly, imbecility, insanity, lunacy, madness, senselessness, silliness and witlessness. Those unflattering characterizations are as

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appropriate in the case of this unnamed website as they are in the case of the advice from Leah and Mrs. Job. *Why?* Because the counsel from all three sources results in sin. That's one quick and easy way to determine the validity or usefulness of a piece of advice. *If the end result is sin, as in blasphemy, idolatry, adultery, fornication, dishonesty, deceit, theft, gossip, intoxication, murder and the like, dismiss it immediately regardless of the source. Whether it's from a parent, spouse, boss, preacher or teacher, the fact remains, if the end result is sin dismiss it immediately.* Don't entertain it, just dismiss it. That's precisely what Job did and that's precisely what we Christians must do. After all, He that walks with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed (Prov. 13:20 AKJV).

As important as it is to reject reckless advice, it's equally important to avoid dispensing it. Just as friends don't let friends drive drunk, Christian friends don't encourage other Christian friends to knowingly and willingly enter into sin. It's true. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers. For Christ's sake, we have a responsibility to try to keep one another from deliberately engaging in behavior which may be detrimental to ourselves or to the cause of Christ (I Cor. 10:32-33). So know when to say, "When". Know when to weep and when to laugh. Know when to mourn and when to dance. Know when to speak and when to keep silent (Ecc. 3:1-8). In short, know how to pick and choose your spots. Also, remember that the power of life and death is in your tongue (Prov. 18:21). So, wield your power wisely. Pray before you act and think before you speak. And when you do engage with others, correct, rebuke and encourage them with great patience and careful instruction (II Tim. 4:2). Confidently yet compassionately speak life to righteousness and death to sinfulness knowing full well that you'll have to give an account for every idle (careless) word you speak on Judgment Day (Matt. 12:36).

Be blessed.

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