



“And now I am no more in the world,  
but these are in the world...” (John 17:11).

Use this recent news story to help your students see the relevance  
of this week’s lesson from the Standard Lesson Commentary®  
or Standard Lesson Quarterly®.

## **CHEATING ON THEIR MATES**

Noel Biderman calls himself the “King of Infidelity.” He is the founder of a \$115 million per year online dating site. The site promotes itself as the place for married people who want to cheat on their mates. The founder’s premise is that extramarital affairs are good for marriages.

The philosophy is now being put to the test, since computer hackers recently revealed the complete list of the site’s more than 30 million customers. Toronto police claim to have found cases of extortion and two unconfirmed suicides as a result. In the U.S., federal authorities report that many government employees with national security clearance have been customers, often accessing the site with government computers.

## **CHEATING ON THEIR GOD**

Malachi “hacked” the list of his people’s sins and found them guilty of spiritual infidelity. The ways in which they had chosen to cheat on God were many. They were involved in adultery, sorcery, perjury, robbing the poor, and withholding their tithes from God. The prophet issued a call for repentance and a return to the Lord, saying this was the only way to heal their land.

1. How do you think married people rationalize visiting a website that openly promotes adultery? What challenges does this present for the church?
2. Throughout the Old Testament, the prophets described God’s people’s unfaithfulness to Him as spiritual adultery. Why is this an apt description?
3. How are Christians tempted to commit spiritual infidelity today? Give some specific examples that include sexual sin and some that do not.
4. If Micah were to put the church of today on trial, what would some of the charges be? How would you plead?

—Charles R. Boatman

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