

Relationships & Marriage - Financial Adultery

Are you committing financial adultery in your marriage? I use this term for the behavior of partners who...

- sneak around with purchases and/or avoid telling their spouse how much they really paid for something
- buy things without discussing it with their spouse or before both of them feel comfortable with the decision
- buy things now, and later try to convince their spouse that he/she consented to the decision
- routinely purchase items that are not in the family budget (or that are over the agreed-upon amount requiring a discussion with their partner)
- keep a separate bank account, credit card, or investment without their spouse's knowledge and equal control
- frequently bounce checks, run up credit card bills, fail to pay taxes, or otherwise put the credit of themselves and their spouse at risk

All of the above behaviors are symptoms of distance and lack of trust in a relationship. If a person is not willing to give of themselves to another person in full financial honesty, there are certainly other things she/he is hiding. The above behaviors almost always ensure that a relationship will not have much emotional or physical intimacy. So, if you tend toward any of the behaviors above, my suggestion is that you begin to examine your fears of intimacy at all levels. Get help from a counselor or small group if needed in your exploration, so that you can open up financially and become fully married to your partner!