

19 Dangerous Behaviors of "Close Call" Friendships

- 1) Saving topics of conversation for your "special friend."
- 2) Sharing spousal difficulties with your friend (*"My husband (or wife) never..."*).
- 3) Allowing the friend to share their relationship difficulties with you (*"My boy/girlfriend always..."*)
- 4) Anticipating seeing this person more than your spouse.
- 5) Comparing the friend and your spouse (*"If only my spouse was nicer to me like s/he is..."*)
- 6) Providing 'treats' for your friend (coffee, snacks, etc.)
- 7) Being concerned for your friend's welfare (*"How did you sleep?"*)
- 8) Fantasizing about marriage to your friend.
- 9) Spending more time alone with your friend than your spouse.
- 10) Not allowing your spouse full access to all your modes of communication (ie., email)
- 11) Spending money on your friend without your spouse's knowledge.
- 12) Arguing with your spouse over the relationship with the friend.
- 13) Lying to spend time with the friend.
- 14) Hiding interactions with the friend.
- 15) Jealously develops on the part of your spouse (*"He sure pays attention to you..."*).
- 16) Developing rituals (any experience anticipated by both parties, like coffee together).
- 17) Experiencing a 'shiver' when your friend shares feelings or touches you.
- 18) Allowing sexual content in your conversations with your friend.
- 19) Corporate dating: taking advantage of business trips to spend quality time together.

Adapted from the Focus on the Family broadcast "Friendship or Flirtation: Danger Signs for Couples" featuring Pastor Dave Carder, author of the book *Close Calls: What Adulterers Want You to Know About Protecting Your Marriage*.