

## **How to Make a Breach of Trust Worse**

Hopefully no one reading this will break the trust of those you love. It's a difficult and painful mistake no one wants to make. Nevertheless, it happens far more often than we would like to believe. Affairs, dishonest financial dealings, teens sneaking around doing drugs or going places they should not, friends sharing confidential information, and on it goes.

When it happens, one of the few questions more difficult to answer than, "Why did you do it?" is "Why did you continue to do it?" The thought of someone we love doing something hurtful to us, realizing what they have done, and then continuing to do it again and again, just fights being reconciled in the human mind. Looking back, most will say, "Yeah, that was stupid, I know." To which someone is bound to respond, "Then what did you keep doing it?"

There is a reason, not a good one, but one I hear every week. Bad decisions and failures are often made worse by believing that if one has "messed up" or failed in some way, and not been caught, there is no use in stopping or changing direction. The thought that tells us, "What's the use in stopping now? I've blown it. I might as well keep going." This is a fatalistic error potentially producing greater calamity than ever expected, but at the time people will buy into the lie, never thinking about the logical outcome of poor decision-making being compounded.

We could possibly explain more by speculating about the person's true intention, true level of love or concern, or countless other factors. It likely will not help the pain go away. The fact is, to stop would say one realizes his or her error and wants to minimize the pain and problems for themselves and for others. It would be to say one was genuinely bothered by doing wrong and wanted to stop. However, to continue on could appear to say one does not care if he or she hurt themselves and others even more. No wonder the pain of the outcome is so difficult for all involved to bear. The right choice is always to stop when one is aware of a wrong done and turn and walk the other way. At least then, one has gained some credibility with anyone involved.