

COMMANDMENT NUMBER SEVEN: DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY

Exodus 20:14

Introduction: This commandment has nothing pretty about it. The very use of the word "adultery" brings ugly thoughts to our minds. We wish that we could skip over this commandment. We wish that nothing was ever said about adultery, but God condemns it and therefore we need to talk about it. How often do people hear sermons on this commandment? Take a look around at the morals of our country. All one sees and hears anymore is "sex, sex, sex..." There is no restraint on sex in our time today. If a preacher is to preach about what our country needs most today, one of his main topics would be this seventh commandment about adultery and immorality. Think for a moment about the downfall of some great nations, Rome, for instance. What was the moral attitude of that nation? So goes a country's morality, so goes the country and then apply that to an individual - so goes an individual's morality, so goes that individual.

I. GOD'S ARRANGEMENT FOR MAN'S WELL-BEING

1. Start with man's creation. God made mates for all His animals but none for Adam. Adam needed a partner, a mate so God put him to sleep and from Adam he formed a mate, a woman, a partner. Adam was no longer alone for there standing beside him was the most beautiful of all God's creation, a woman, Adam's woman. God made them for each other. It was God's plan for them to create a human family, to populate the earth. When a husband or wife leaves the other and joins him/herself to another, this violates God's plans and God calls this "adultery."
2. Genesis 2:24 and Ephesians 5:31 are practically the same: *"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh."* For what cause? For the cause of creating a family, the cause of replenishing the human race, the cause of protecting and purifying themselves.
3. There is only one Biblical basis for marriage, and that is love. The peculiar love which God puts into the heart of a man and a woman. To marry for any other purpose is not God's purpose for marriage. A marriage built on any other foundation is not of God and will surely fail.
4. Why is love such a necessary basis for successful marriage? Because the pathway of life is strewn with many trials and hardships. It takes a mutual love and understanding to hold a couple together. If either party plans to come to the marriage altar without a deep love in his or her heart, that person owes it to him/herself and to the other person to stay out of marriage.
 - Jacob worked seven years to get his beloved Rachel and we read that those seven years seemed but a few days because of the great love which he had for her.
5. Paul tells us to marry *"in the Lord..."* This means that a Christian is not to be married to a non-Christian. Again, *"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers..."* Some say, "I know he/she is not a Christian, but after we marry I am sure that I can change him/her." Most often that is wrong. A person assumes a most difficult job when he/she tries to reform his/her mate after marriage. Whatever a person's habits and lifestyle may be before marriage those things will continue after marriage.
6. The only way to have a happy, God blessed marriage is to have things in common. Differences will lead to complications in the marriage and the home and the children will be the ones to pay the price for those differences later on. Therefore, marry only that one where there is love and things are in common, starting with his/her relationship with the Lord.

II. MAN'S DEPARTURE FROM GOD'S PLAN

1. There are warnings against adultery in many parts of the Bible: *Job 31:11: "For this is a heinous crime; yea it is an iniquity to be punished by the judges. For it is a fire that consumeth to destruction."*
 - *Proverbs 6:27-29: "Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned? So he that goeth into his neighbour's wife; whosoever*

toucheth her shall not be innocent."

- 1 Corinthians 6:9: "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived, neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers...."

2. In the Book of Proverbs we are told that the steps of an impure woman lead to death and take hold in hell. There are six Scriptures in the Bible which tell us that adultery is the way to hell. This does not mean that every person who has committed adultery will go to hell anymore than one who lies will go to hell. But it does mean that if one keeps on this sinful course and does not come to the cleansing fountain of Jesus Christ, that person will go to hell.
 - God has a punishment for this sin right here. The sins that a person commits are punished in his/her body while that person is still alive on earth, but no sin in the world brings such suffering as often as the results from adultery.
 - One morning when Jesus was in the Temple a group of self-righteous scribes and Pharisees brought before him a woman taken in the very act of adultery. What did Jesus do? He knelt down and began to write in sand, then said, **"He that is without sin cast the first stone.."** Why did Jesus say this to them? Because He knew that they were just as guilty as she was.
3. Adultery has a degrading effect upon character. All that is decent and fine goes down the drain when one commits adultery, and a feeling of shame and uncleanness envelops the guilty person.
 - A person commits some other sin can say, "This is my own business." But not so with adultery. Adultery involves someone else. The sixth and seventh commandment are related. **"Thou shalt not kill... Thou shalt not commit adultery."** Both involve the sacredness of human personality. It is wrong to kill the body by murder and it is wrong to soil and degrade the body by adultery.
4. The question of divorce is involved here, also. What does Jesus say about it? He says that the only ground for divorce is adultery, the breaking of the seventh commandment. This shows the seriousness of the sin in God's sight. Adultery is the only thing that kills the marriage "contract." Couples have the right to separate but they have no right to marry again unless adultery has been involved.
 - Jesus said, **"What...God hath joined together, let no man put asunder..."** We have no authority to separate a husband and wife unless they have God's permission. Where does divorce hurt most? In the lives of the children. Untold misery and calamity is brought upon them. Court records show that the majority of criminals come from broken homes.
 - **"Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of a harlot? God forbid. What? Know ye not that he which is joined to a harlot is one body? For two, saith he, shall be one flesh." (1 Corinthians 6:15)**
5. Think about two Old Testament characters, both men of God, both tempted by the same sin. David saw Bathsheba and sent for her and committed adultery. Joseph was tempted by Potiphar's wife but he turned away, saying, **"This will be a sin against God. I cannot do it."** What was the final result of these two decisions? David sinned and the sword never departed from his house. Sorrow piled upon sorrow for him. But Joseph went on to become the Prime Minister of Egypt. Sin pays off in one way. Virtue pays off in another.

III. CHRIST'S REMEDY FOR THIS SIN (Conclusion)

1. There is but one remedy: Go to Christ Jesus and tell Him about it. He already knows all about it, but tell him that you want to give it up. Ask Him to forgive you and to help you. He will say the same thing to you He said to the woman brought to Him, **"Go and sin no more."**
2. If you are guilty of breaking this commandment, determine right now to be done with it all. Turn to Jesus for He is waiting for you to come to Him and to confess this sin. He wants to forgive you and give you more happiness than you can find in a life of sin.
3. Judgment is waiting for you and your sin will condemn you there. Jesus is willing to forgive you right now and when you do stand before Him in judgment, your sin will be blotted out. Now is the time.