

Subject: *The Seventh Commandment*

Scripture: *Exodus 20:14*

It is no surprise that people want to eliminate the Ten Commandments from public buildings. What they really want is to remove the Ten Commandments from the public conscience. The seventh commandment is one that condemns our whole society, yet it has been said that this is the one that is broken with the most enthusiasm and excitement. In the Book of Jeremiah we find this sad statement: ***Jeremiah 23:10*** *The land is full of adulterers.* It's true in our day. Certain things are still wrong, and God's Word is still true. The first four of the Ten Commandments have to do with respect for God: 1) Respect for God alone; 2) Respect for God's nature; 3) Respect for God's name; 4) Respect for God's holy day. The last six of the Ten Commandments have to do with respect for other people: 5) Respect your parents; 6) Respect human life; 7) Respect marriage.

1. The purity of marriage

God gave this commandment to protect the sanctity of marriage. Adultery is a violation of the marriage covenant and sanctity of the relationship of husband and wife. To adulterate means to make something impure or to corrupt it. Marriage is a sacred institution. It was the first institution that God ordained. Adultery corrupts what God has made sacred or holy. God established marriage and the family before government and the church. The Bible teaches several things about the marriage relationship:

A. Marriage is a sacred relationship – It is designed and created by God.

Genesis 2:18 *And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an helper suitable for him.*

Genesis 2:24-25 ²⁴ *Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.* ²⁵ *And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.*

B. Marriage is a supreme relationship – “leave his father and mother” – It is the most important human relationship we have. It is more important than the relationship with our parents, our children, or anything else except our relationship with God.

C. Marriage is a steadfast relationship – “cleave unto his wife” – Marriage is meant to last a lifetime.

D. Marriage is a spiritual relationship – Two lives become one. We have several customs in a wedding ceremony that symbolize this union between husband and wife: a unity candle, unity sand, and the unity cross. These are pictures of unity in marriage. There is emotional and physical unity, but there must be spiritual unity.

2. The perversion of adultery

Regardless of what the world says, any kind of sexual activity outside of marriage is sin.

A. It is a sin that God will judge

Hebrews 13:4 *Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.*

Matthew 5:27-28 *You have heard that it was said by them of old time, You shalt not commit adultery: but I say unto you, that whosoever looks on a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.*

B. It is a sin we must avoid – a deceptive sin, a destructive sin, and a deadly sin.

- It is a sin against the home.

It can wreck and ruin a family.

- It is a sin against the church.

1 Corinthians 6:15 *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 an harlot? God forbid.*

We are members in the body of Christ.

- It is a sin against the nation.

Proverbs 14:34 *Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.* Sexual immorality is the sin that led to the downfall of Rome, Greece, Egypt, and Babylon. Edward Gibbon in *The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire*, gave five reasons why Rome fell. Reason number one was the breakdown of morality and the home.

- It is a sin against your own life.

Proverbs 6:27-29 ²⁷ *Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? ²⁸ Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned? ²⁹ So he that goeth in to his neighbor's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.*

Proverbs 6:32 *But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.*

1 Corinthians 6:18 *Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.*

1 Peter 2:11 *Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul.*

- It is a sin against God.

When David sinned with Bathsheba, he knew he sinned against her, her husband Uriah, and against the nation because he was their king, but even worse he sinned against God.

Psalms 51:4 *Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight.*

C. It is a sin we must confess

Proverbs 28:13 *He that covers his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesses and forsakes them shall have mercy.*

D. It is a sin God will forgive – Christ forgave a woman who was guilty of adultery

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 ⁹ *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, ¹⁰ Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you: but ye are*

washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

What should you do if you're guilty of adultery (either the act or the lustful thought in your heart)? You need God's forgiveness. You need to repent and ask Him to forgive you.

Psalm 51:10 *Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.*

Isaiah 55:7 *Let the wicked forsake, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

Christ told a woman who was caught in the act of adultery – ***John 8:11***...*neither do I condemn you: go, and sin no more.*

You may need to forgive someone who has betrayed your trust by adultery. You need to forgive that person.

Ephesians 4:32 *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*