


The 7th Commandment: You Shall Not Commit Adultery


Exodus 20:14

Presented by Bob DeWaay
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Overview

- The seventh commandment forbids adultery
- Marriage is ordained by God and sacred
- Unfaithfulness to one's marriage is a great sin before God
- Husbands and wives have been given responsibilities for the well-being of their marriage
- Jesus warns about looking with lust
- The Bible warns about spiritual adultery



The Seventh Commandment

- **Exodus 20:14**
You shall not commit adultery.



The sin of adultery

- Murder is a violation of human life as created in God's image
- Adultery is a violation of the most sacred human relationship, that of marriage
- The verb "to commit adultery" can be used of either men or women
- Adultery is marital infidelity of a man with the wife of another, a man with the fiancée of another, or a wife with a man (Durham)



The "great sin" in ANE

■ Genesis 20:9

Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, "What have you done to us? And how have I sinned against you, that you have brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? You have done to me things that ought not to be done."



Unfaithfulness to the marriage covenant
is also unfaithfulness to God

■ Genesis 39:9

There is no one greater in this house than I, and he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great evil and sin against God?



Adultery was a very serious offense in OT Israel

■ **Deuteronomy 22:22**

If a man is found lying with a married woman, then both of them shall die, the man who lay with the woman, and the woman; thus you shall purge the evil from Israel.



A serious crime against family and God

"This attitude toward adultery [that it was punishable by death] is fully understandable only in view of the fact that more than the integrity of marriage and the home and more than the integrity of personal honor were at stake in the covenantal setting of Yahweh's 'ten words.' The integrity of the Israelite's relationship with Yahweh himself was at stake" (J. Durham, Word Commentary)



Marriage is a sacred institution

■ **Genesis 2:18, 24**

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." . . . For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

Jesus: "So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate." (Matt. 19:6)



Those who defile marriage will face
God as judge

■ **Hebrews 13:4**

Marriage is to be held in honor among all,
and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for
fornicators and adulterers God will judge.



Forbidding marriage is a doctrine of demons

■ **1Timothy 4:1b - 3**

paying attention to deceitful spirits and
doctrines of demons, by means of the
hypocrisy of liars seared in their own
conscience as with a branding iron, men
who forbid marriage and advocate
abstaining from foods which God has
created to be gratefully shared in by those
who believe and know the truth.



Husbands are to love their wives and protect
their well-being

■ **Ephesians 5:25, 26**

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ
also loved the church and gave Himself up
for her, so that He might sanctify her, having
cleansed her by the washing of water with
the word,



Wives must respect their husbands

■ **Ephesians 5:33b**

the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.



Jesus warns about lust

■ **Matthew 5:27, 28**

You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery"; but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.


■ **2Peter 2:14a**

having eyes full of adultery that never cease from sin,




Applications and Implications

- 1) Having a life-long committed marriage relationship is worth whatever effort it takes
- 2) We need to see ourselves as persons who could easily fail
- 3) Spiritual adultery is even more wicked than physical adultery



1) Having a life-long committed marriage relationship is worth whatever effort it takes

- Marriage is a type of Christ and the church
- Marriage is about long term well-being, not about momentary happiness
- We must not allow even necessary things to keep us from giving attention to our marriages
- The modern workplace is a great danger to marriages
- We need to respect other people's marriages




2) We need to see ourselves as persons who could easily fail

- **1Corinthians 10:12**

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

- **Matthew 26:33**

But Peter said to Him, "Even though all may fall away because of You, I will never fall away."



3) Spiritual adultery is even more wicked than physical adultery

- **Exodus 32:21 - 23**

Then Moses said to Aaron, "What did this people do to you, that you have brought such great sin upon them?" Aaron said, "Do not let the anger of my lord burn; you know the people yourself, that they are prone to evil. "For they said to me, 'Make a god for us who will go before us; for this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.'"



3) Spiritual adultery is even more wicked than physical adultery

■ **Jeremiah 3:8**

And I saw that for all the adulteries of faithless Israel, I had sent her away and given her a writ of divorce, yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear; but she went and was a harlot also.



3) Spiritual adultery is even more wicked than physical adultery

■ **2Corinthians 11:2, 3**

For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin. But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.



3) Spiritual adultery is even more wicked than physical adultery

■ **2Corinthians 11:4**

For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.

