



**Given up to uncleanness
Deut 5:18 ' You shall not commit adultery.**

If there is any sin that has brought God's people into a state of bondage and slavery to sin more often than adultery in all of its various permutations, I do not know what it is. It was adultery that was the undoing of David, it led him to commit murder, and destroyed the harmony of his family for the rest of his life, so that the sword did not depart from his house for as long as he was alive. It was adultery that led Solomon, the wisest of all men, into Spiritual Adultery and ultimately caused the kingdom of Israel to be split in two. Adultery has not ceased to be the sin which most commonly causes the leaders of God's people to stumble and fall. Amongst Pastors this is THE ministry destroying sin and amongst congregations it is the most common cause for church discipline, excommunication, or simply flight from the church altogether. It is commonly the case that once a man or woman falls prey to this temptation that their days in the assembly of God's people are numbered.

Using adultery the Devil can entice professing Christians to give up all their privileges, destroy their homes, destroy their churches, tarnish their future, betray every vow they have ever taken, consign themselves to an early death and put themselves in spiritual shackles. I have only been a Pastor for six years, but in that brief time I have seen that happen again and again at every level, and it has never been anything but heartbreaking. Therefore as I preach this, I will in a sense be speaking to all of you, but I want to speak today particularly to the older children, and the younger adults. Those of you who have not yet married, who have most of your lives still before you. I am particularly zealous for you today, because we live in the midst of a society that will do everything it can to encourage you to adultery, and I want you to know that what your enemies the world, the flesh, and the devil are trying to do is get you to sell yourself into a particularly bitter and soul warping form of slavery. You may not understand all of what I'm about to say, but what I want to do is put a warning label on adultery in your mind.

Kids if you see a skull and crossbones on the label of a bottle or container, what does that mean? It doesn't mean pirate drink does it? It means POISON. It means if you eat or drink the contents you will get sick and you may even die. What I want to do if I can is simply put the skull and crossbones warning sign on Adultery in your minds. Because what the world is trying to do is trying to take it off of everything.

Now the world will say to you, oh that's just old fashioned. The church is too puritanical and prudish, you need to move beyond that because adultery is normal and good, the only way you can have fun is by breaking this commandment. The Lord says "You Shall Not Commit Adultery" but the world, the flesh and the Devil say that's no fun, YOU SHALL, that's how you'll have fun. Which isn't true. But then again, the Devil has never been particularly fond of the truth. He is the father of lies and it has always been his ambition to get us to turn our backs on the good things that God gives us and instead take the twisted and corrupted things that he is peddling.

We saw for instance that in the garden before the fall of man, God gave us two great gifts we call them creation ordinances. The first of these was the Sabbath, that one day in seven that God gave us as a day for rest and worship. The devil however was constantly getting man to give up that day. Now he was to cagey to say, you should live the life of a pagan slave, never resting from your labors, never spending time with your family devoted to the worship of the Lord. Instead he said, "You know if you don't keep the Lord's Day Holy, you have another day that you can use for work or play. Won't that be great?" Yeah, that's great my entire life can now be working, and buying, and selling, and playing, and working, and playing, and working, and playing... And before they knew it, Israel had recreated the same pattern of life they had when they were slaves in Egypt. But this time they did it willing.

The second of those ordinances was marriage, a covenant relationship (and by covenant I mean a relationship entered into by promises and vows) and not just a covenant relationship but a "one flesh" lifelong relationship between a man and a woman, a relationship so intimate and special that God uses it as an analogy for his special relationship with his covenant people. Now when God said "*Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*" He was saying also, I'm going to give you a special gift of intimacy that should only exist between husband and wife, I'm going to give the great gift of sexual intimacy in the midst of that relationship that I have created for you.

Now the devil being very sly didn't say, you should destroy the marriage relationship, he said you know that gift of sex that God gave doesn't have to be in the midst of a one flesh relationship, it doesn't even have to be between one man and one woman, there are a myriad of different ways to exercise it. ***And incidentally that is the way that the bible defines adultery, it is any exercise of that gift of sexual intimacy outside of the marriage relationship between one man and one woman.*** And so man said again. "Yeah, now I can have that gift, and I don't even have to have the responsibilities of marriage." Of course the devil didn't say, oh by the way, exercised outside of marriage its no longer a gift, it becomes a gateway to a host of spiritual and oh yes, physical curses. And by the way, you destroy the fundamental building block of society, the family and anger God.

In both cases, the devil doesn't tell us what William S. Plumer points out: "***There is no example of any community, large or small, ancient or modern, continuing virtuous or happy for a considerable time, if they slighted either marriage or the Sabbath-day.***"

Why is adultery such a foul sin? Not just because it defiles and is impure, but because it strikes at the very heart of all covenants. It is the very opposite of fidelity. It is a rending of sacred trust, both between man and woman and between Man and God. It is to repay faithfulness with faithlessness. God throughout the word says that there is a relationship between committing spiritual adultery and committing physical adultery. And that it is in disobedience and unfaithfulness to Him that adultery thrives. It is when we turn our back on God and His Will that we become open to adultery. And so in committing adultery ourselves, we also commit spiritual adultery against Him:

Now many of the great men of the bible have realized and reinforced this relationship. Turn with me to Gen. 39:7 And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me."

8 But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand.

9 "There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

Joseph accepts that giving in and committing adultery with Potiphar's wife would not just be a sin against his earthly master it would be a sin against his heavenly master as well. And in Israel unfortunately, when apostasy was rank in the land, adultery inevitably was as well:

NKJ Hosea 4:1 Hear the word of the LORD, You children of Israel, For the LORD brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: "There is no truth or mercy Or knowledge of God in the land.

2 By swearing and lying, Killing and stealing and committing adultery, They break all restraint, With bloodshed upon bloodshed.

Jer. 5:7 " How shall I pardon you for this? Your children have forsaken Me And sworn by those that are not gods. When I had fed them to the full, Then they committed adultery And assembled themselves by troops in the harlots' houses.

8 They were like well-fed lusty stallions; Every one neighed after his neighbor's wife.

When the gospel light is shining bright, and faithfulness to God marks the church, adultery is inevitably at a low ebb. But as the church weakens, as the knowledge of God is lost, and fades from a society, and fewer and fewer people really acknowledge him as their Lord and Savior, it is inevitable that adultery increases. God actually says that not only adultery but perversion will be the inevitable fruit of a darkened heart:

Romans 1:21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man -- and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,

25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

26 For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.

27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

This spiritual decline is the origin of perverse forms of adultery like homosexuality, and as bad as the slavery and unhappiness that comes from heterosexual adultery and fornication is and it is bad (and incidentally women in particular always suffer more, not only physically but because there is a something particularly soul destroying about multiple intimacies for them) homosexuality puts people into a particularly awful spiral where they become addicts enslaved to the vain pursuit of pleasure. Now society stridently denies this against all the glaring data. I myself for several years: Columbia Island Marina, Lived over a gay bar, and was friends with men who worked with harvest ministries. The life style is frantic, and bitter, and angry, and promotes suicide.

But brothers and sisters, we need to not think as some do that this is the really terrible sin, and that all the others are little itty bitty things, minor peccadillos. Too many churches pour their approbrium on that sin, but wink at various forms of fornication, especially amongst the unmarried. We need to remember that this commandment forbids all forms of fornication and the things that lead to it such as:

This includes:

- A) Drunkenness (Eph. 5:18)
- B) Immodest Apparell (Prov. 7:10, 1 Tim. 2:9)
- C) Prohibiting Marriage and Enforcing Vows of Celibacy (1 Cor. 7:9)
- D) What the LC calls Corrupt and Filthy Communications (Eph. 5:3-4)
- E) Pornography (Gal. 5:19, Eph. 5:3)

And even if you may think self-righteously that you have avoided this sin remember that it is not just the physical act that is forbidden, it is the sins of the heart where every physical act of adultery begins:

Matt. 5:27 " You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.'

28 "But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

29 "If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

Who then can be saved...

Matthew 19:25 When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?"

26 But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

All will fail and have failed to keep this commandment

But through Christ we can be redeemed and once like the woman taken in adultery

John 8:10 10 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?"

11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

Go now and sin no more, kids if you would be happy in Christ, remember that commandment and do not fall pray to the world's lies