

**Subject: God's Moral Law – The Seventh Commandment**

**Scripture: Exodus 20:1-14**

It is no surprise that people want to eliminate the Ten Commandments from public display. Their intention 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.

**Jeremiah 23:10** *The land is full of adulterers.* Do you remember when air was clean and immorality was dirty? Certain things are still wrong, and God's Word is still true.

**I. THE PROVISION OF MARRIAGE**

To adulterate means to make impure, to mar, to dilute, or to harm. What is it that is so pure that God does not want it marred and harmed? It is marriage of a man and woman. It is the home. Marriage is a sacred institution. It was the first institution that God ordained. Someone asked a woman, "Where did you find your husband?" "I met him at a travel agency—he was the last resort." Marriage was not God's last resort. It was God's first choice. Marriage came before the law, before government, before God's directions for worship, before the church.

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

**Genesis 2:22-25** <sup>22</sup> *And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.* <sup>23</sup> *And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.* <sup>24</sup> *Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.* <sup>25</sup> *And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.* The Bible teaches several things about the marriage relationship:

- A. Marriage is a special relationship – It is divine in its design and creation.
- B. Marriage is a supreme relationship – "leave and cleave" – It is supreme to the relationship we have with our parents. Here is some good advice for parents when their children get married: hands off, prayers on, and mouths shut. Marriage is supreme to the relationship we have with our children. It is supreme to the relationship we have with our work or our hobbies or anything else.
- C. Marriage is a steadfast relationship – It is meant to last a lifetime.
- D. Marriage is a sublime relationship – Two lives become one. The Cherokee Indians used to have a marriage ceremony in which the bride and groom would hold hands and walk together across a stream, symbolizing that their two lives merged into one like two branches of a stream flow together.

**II. THE POLLUTION OF ADULTERY**

Regardless of what our world says, adultery and any kind of sexual activity outside of marriage is a sin.

A. It is a sin we must confess

- A sin against yourself

**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.*

- A sin against the home – adultery wrecks and ruins families
- A sin against the church – we are members of one another
- A sin against the nation – a nation is no stronger than its homes

**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.

- A sin against the Lord – Believers are members of the body of Christ.

**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.*

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

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

B. It is a sin God must condemn – God takes this sin very seriously.

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

**Proverbs 6:27-29**<sup>27</sup> *Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? <sup>28</sup> Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned? <sup>29</sup> 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.*

Like all sin, the sin of adultery will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.

C. It is a sin God can cleanse

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11**<sup>9</sup> *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,<sup>10</sup> Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.<sup>11</sup> 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.*

### **III. THE PROTECTION AGAINST ADULTERY**

How can we keep ourselves pure in a contaminated world?

- A. **Determination** – God commands us to repent of sin and trust Christ as Lord and Savior. You can't live a pure life without Christ. If you are not saved, commit your life to Christ. Ask Him to be your Lord (Master) and Savior. Then we must be determined to live a pure life for Christ. The Bible says, "Flee fornication." There are some things we should run from. We have the example of Joseph when he was tempted by Potiphar's wife. He said "How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" (Gen. 39:9).
  
- B. **Dependence** – Depend on the Lord. The Bible says, "The LORD was with Joseph." It says, "Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world."  
**1 John 5:4** *For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*
  
- C. **Devotion** – Fear the Lord. **Proverbs 16:6** *By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.* Love the Lord. **Psalms 97:10** *You who love the LORD hate evil.* Love your husband. Love your wife.  
**Ephesians 5:25** *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.* That's not a request; it's a command.
  
- D. **Development** – Continue to feed your love. Love is like a tender flower that must be cultivated and watered. The godly Puritan pastor Thomas Watson once said, "It is not having a wife, but loving a wife, that makes a man live purely."
  
- E. **Discipline** – Guard your heart. **Proverbs 4:23** *Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.* Whatever gets your attention will get you. Guard your thoughts. You wouldn't put garbage in your mouth. Why put it in your mind? Guard your eyes. Jesus said, "Whoever looks with lust has committed adultery already in his heart." Guard your company. Don't put yourself in the place of temptation. "He who would not fall down must not walk in slippery places." **Galatians 5:16** *This I say then: walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.*

God will heal a broken home and a broken heart if you ask Him.

God will cleanse a dirty heart and conscience if you ask Him.