

***“O How Love I Thy Law!”***  
***The Seventh Commandment***  
***“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”***  
***Exodus 20:14***

**Introduction:**

1. Let's Turn Back In Our Bibles Tonight:
  - To Exodus 20:
    - Where - Once Again:
      - I Would Like For Us To Read Through:
        - The Ten Commandments:
          - Which Is God's Unchangeable, Moral Law:
            - Exodus 20:1-17!
2. Now - For The Next Few Weeks:
  - We Are Going To Focus Our Attention:
    - On 20:14 - Where We Find:
      - The Seventh Commandment:
        - Where We Are Told:
          - Again - Simply & Clearly:
            - “Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery!”
3. Of Course - The First Question:
  - That We Need To Address Is:
    - What Is Adultery?
      - Our English Word:
        - Comes From A Latin Word:
          - That Meant “The Violation Of The Bed Of Another” - Especially Within The Context:
            - Of Marriage!
- And That Makes Adultery:
  - The Right English Word:
    - To Translate The Hebrew Word:
      - Found In The Seventh Commandment!
        - God Forbids Any And All Kinds Of Infidelity In Marriage!
          - Whether Physical, Emotional, Or Even Mental!
4. And - This Makes:
  - The Central Theme:
    - Of The Seventh Commandment:
      - Fidelity & Faithfulness!
  - And - In The Context Of Marriage:
    - Fidelity To The Spouse God Has Give To You:
      - In A Biblically Defined:
        - And A God Blessed Marriage!
5. The Position Of This Commandment:
  - Is Also Appropriately Placed:
    - As The Second Commandment:
      - Of The Second Tablet:
        - That Deals With Our Relationship With Others!
  - Because - If You Recall:
    - On The First Tablet:
      - That Deals With Our Relationship With God:
        - The Second Commandment:
          - Forbids The Sin Of Idolatry:
            - Which - At Its Core:
              - Is Infidelity & Unfaithfulness To God!
- And So - Here:
  - On The Second Tablet:
    - ***This*** Second Commandment:
      - Forbids The Sin Of Adultery:

- Which Is Infidelity & Unfaithfulness To Your Spouse!
- And This Commandment:
  - Applies Equally:
    - To Both The Husband And The Wife!
- 6. And Through This:
  - God Shows:
    - Not Only His *Intention*:
      - For Marriage:
        - Which He Created And Initiated:
          - In The Garden Of Eden:
            - Between Adam & Eve!
    - But - He Also Provides:
      - *Protection* For Marriage:
        - Which He Designed To Be:
          - The Very Cornerstone:
            - For Families, Societies, And Even Our Churches!
    - Because - Adultery:
      - Tears At The Very Fabric:
        - God Uses To Knit Those Institutions Together:
          - For The Good Of Mankind:
            - And For His Own Glory!
  - 7. So - To Understand:
    - Why Adultery Is So Serious:
      - We Need To Understand:
        - What Makes Marriage So Special!
          - So - Lets Go Back To The Beginning Of Marriage:
            - In Genesis 2:21-25!
        - Where We Read:
          - “And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; / 22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. / 23 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. / 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!”
      - Now - In This Rather Unusual Marriage Ceremony:
        - We See God’s Unchanging Design:
          - For True Marriage!
            - Marriage Was Always Meant By God To Be The Union Of One Man And One Woman For Life!
              - So:
        - This Marriage Union Was To Be:
          - A Single Union!
            - And Even Though - In The Bible - We Find Many Failures Of This Principle:
              - God Never Puts Polygamy In A Good Light! It Always Led To Trouble, Didn’t It?!
          - But Further:
        - This Marriage Union Was To Be:
          - An Intimate Union:
            - Implied By The Formation Of Eve:
              - From The Rib Of Adam!
        - This Marriage Union Was Also To Be:
          - A Permanent Union:
            - Since - 2:24 - As A Man Left His Father And His Mother:
              - He Was To “Cleave Unto His Wife!” - To Stick With Her - And She With Him!
        - This Marriage Union Was Also To Be:
          - A Fulfilling Union:

- Because - Also According To 2:24 - “They Shall Be One Flesh!”
    - This Means That The Husband & The Wife Were Designed:
      - To Fulfill And To Complete Each Other!
  - And This Completion:
    - Is Even Seen In How God Designed The Differences Of Our Bodies:
      - As Males And Females!
  - But Also - This Marriage Union Was To Be:
    - A Safe Union:
      - Where - 2:25 - A “Man And His Wife” Can Experience A Relationship:
        - Without Shame & Guilt & Fear!
8. Marriage Was Designed By God:
- To Be A Beautiful Thing!
    - A Relationship:
      - That Is Also A Mysterious Union!
        - Because - In Ephesians 5:31-32 - As The Apostle Paul Reminds Christian Families:
          - Of Their Different Roles & Responsibilities Toward Each Other - He Adds These Words - Referring To The Formation Of Marriage In The Book Of Genesis:
            - 5:31-32 - “For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. / This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church!”
              - There Are Ways In Which:
                - A Biblical Marriage:
                  - Between A Man And A Woman:
                    - Reflect The Spiritual Nature & Relationship Between:
                      - Jesus Christ, As The Groom, And His Own Bride, The Church!

9. But Even More:

    - God Made Marriage:
      - To Be A Blessed Union!
        - Blessed By Him!
          - Back In Genesis 1:27-28 - On The Sixth Day Of Creation - Which Is Expanded Upon In Genesis 2 - We Read:
            - “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. / And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth!”
    - God Blessed Marriage:
      - To Be The Foundation:
        - Of A Growing Family:
          - In Order To “Be Fruitful And Multiply, And Replenish The Earth!”
      - But He Also Blessed Marriage:
        - To Be The Cornerstone:
          - Of A Well-Ordered Society:
            - As They Exercised “Dominion” Over The World God Created For Them!

10. Marriage Is A Beautiful And Wonderful:

    - Creation Of God:
      - And He Ever Remains:

1. ***Faithful To His Creation:***

    - Of Marriage!
      - He Has Never Changed His Design Of Marriage:
        - And - He Has Never Changed:
          - His Purpose For Marriage!
            - So - No Matter How This Sinful World Tries To Redefine And Change:
              - Marriage - They Cannot Alter What Marriage Is!
    - And - The Bedrock:
      - Of Marriage:
        - That Is Intimate & Permanent:

- Fulfilling & Safe:
  - Though Mysterious But Still Blessed:
    - Is One Of The Major Attributes Of God's Own Character:
      - And That Is Faithfulness!
- And So - To See:
  - How God Wants:
    - Our Marriages To Be:
      - We Need To Look More Closely At:
        - The Faithfulness Of The One:
          - Who Created &
            - Designed Marriage To Begin With!
  - And - Strive To Be Faithful:
    - Even As He Is Faithful!
      - And So - Not Only Is God Faithful:
        - To His Creation Of Marriage:
          - He Is Also:

## 2. ***Faithful In His Care:***

- For Marriage!
  - One Of The Key Ingredients:
    - For A Healthy & A Happy Marriage:
      - Is Real Love:
        - And Care For:
          - Your Spouse!
    - And - If You Truly Love Someone:
      - You Will Be Faithful:
        - To Them!
  - And - Doesn't This Describe:
    - The Nature:
      - Of God's Own Love And Care:
        - For His People?
    - To Whosoever:
      - Comes To Him:
        - By Faith In His Son, Jesus Christ:
          - He Says - From Jeremiah 31:3 - "Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee!"
  - And God Is Ever Faithful:
    - In His Love & Care:
      - For You - If You Belong To Him!
        - Even When The Children Of Israel:
          - Frequently Turned Away From God - In Acts Of Spiritual Adultery:
            - His Love And Care For Them Never Wavered & Never Changed!
  - This Is Vividly Illustrated:
    - In The Life And Words:
      - Of The Prophet Hosea - Who:
        - In Hosea 3:1 Commands Him With These Words:
          - "Then said the LORD unto me, Go yet, love a woman beloved of her friend, yet an adulteress, according to the love of the LORD toward the children of Israel, who look to other gods, and love flagons of wine!"
  - As God Created Marriage:
    - With True Love And Care In Mind:
      - God Is Faithful:
        - In His Care For:
          - His People - Even:
            - For You Tonight!
  - But Also - God Is:

## 3. ***Faithful In His Commitment:***

- To His People!
  - Another Key Ingredient:
    - For A Healthy & A Happy Marriage:
      - Is Real Commitment:
        - For Your Spouse!
  - And - If You Are Truly Committed:
    - To Someone - Then:
      - You Will Be Faithful:
        - To Them!
  - Even As It Used To Be Stated:
    - In Wedding Vows:
      - “I Take You (Either As A Husband Or A Wife) To Have And To Hold From This Day Forward, For Better, For Worse, For Richer, For Poorer, In Sickness And In Health, Till Death Do Us Part!”
  - These Are Vows:
    - Of Commitment:
      - And Make Marriage:
        - Much More Than Just A Matter Of Feeling Or Even A Matter Of Convenience!
          - It Is A Covenant Made Between A Man And A Woman - Before God & Before Others!
    - And It Becomes:
      - A Bond That Only:
        - Death Has The Power To Sever!
- And - Doesn't This Also Describe:
  - The Nature:
    - Of God's Own Commitment:
      - To His People?
  - Throughout The Old Testament:
    - The Concept Of Covenant:
      - Is Made Prominent!
        - God Made Covenants With:
          - Noah; Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob; The Children Of Israel; David:
            - And Even With Us Who Believe In His Son!
- And So - As We Find:
  - In Romans 8:35-39:
    - We Hear The Word's Of God's Commitment To Us Rooted In His Care & His Love:
      - “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? / As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. / Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. / For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, / Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord!”
  - God's Commitment To You:
    - Is Far Greater Than Any Other:
      - Commitment You Will Find In This World!
- And Yet - God Created Marriage:
  - So That There Can Be A Taste:
    - Of This Kind Of True Commitment!
      - And So - God Intended Us To Be Faithful:
        - Even As He Is Faithful:
          - In His Commitment To His People In His Covenant Of Love & Grace!
  - But Also - God Is:

#### 4. ***Faithful In His Charge:***

- To His People!
  - That Is - God Is Faithful:

- In His Roles & Functions:
  - Toward Us!
- This, Too, Is Another Key Ingredient:
  - For A Healthy & A Happy Marriage:
    - Isn't It?
- The Roles Within A Marriage:
  - Were Designed By God:
    - To Complement Each Other!
    - This Means That:
      - Each Spouse - The Husband And The Wife - Each Plays A Special, Divinely Arranged Part:
        - In Fulfilling God's Purpose For Marriage!
- These Roles:
  - Were Initiated In The Garden Of Eden:
    - Both Before & Even After The Fall:
      - And Are Still Relevant Today!
  - Even As We Are Told:
    - In Ephesians 5:22-30 - "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. / 23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. / 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. / 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; / 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, / 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. / 28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. / 29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: / 30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones!"
- Now - This None Of This Means That:
  - The Wife Is Inferior:
    - To The Husband - Or That:
      - The Husband Is Superior:
        - To His Wife!
  - It Simply Means That:
    - God Gave Husbands & Wives:
      - Different Roles And Functions:
        - Within The Family!
          - And - God Calls On Each Of Us To Faithfully Fulfill Our Roles:
            - For The Glory Of God & For The Benefit Of Our Spouse & Family!
- But - Doesn't This Also Describe:
  - The Nature:
    - Of God's Own Charge:
      - Over His People?
  - The Bible Describes:
    - Various Roles And Responsibilities:
      - That God Has Given Himself:
        - In His Relationship With His People!
  - As Your Creator:
    - He Gave You Life:
      - And Faithfully Sustains Your:
        - Life!
    - Even As He Did:
      - For The Children Of Israel:
        - Nehemiah 9:21 - "Yea, forty years didst thou sustain them in the wilderness, so that they lacked nothing; their clothes waxed not old, and their feet swelled not!"
  - As Your Father:
    - He Faithfully Guides You:
      - And Cares For You:
        - And Sometimes Even Chastens You:

- Since You Are His Child!
- Even As We Are Told:
  - In Hebrews 12:5b-6 - “My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: / For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth!”
- And This Too Is One Of The Reasons Why:
  - God Created Marriage!
    - So That - As Each Spouse:
      - Fulfills Their Role And Responsibility:
        - In A Faithful Way:
          - God Is Glorified:
            - And The Family Grows!

**Conclusion:**

1. The Underlying Doctrine:
  - Of The Seventh Commandment:
    - Is That God Is A Faithful God!
      - God Is Faithful:
        - To His Creation:
          - Of Marriage!
      - God Is Faithful:
        - In His Care:
          - For His People!
      - God Is Faithful:
        - In His Commitment:
          - To His People!
      - And - God Is Faithful:
        - In His Own Charge:
          - For His People!
2. And God Designed Marriage:
  - To Reflect His Faithfulness:
    - In All Of These Areas:
      - And Even More!
  - And That Is Why:
    - Adultery:
      - And Infidelity:
        - Are Absolutely Abhorrent:
          - To The Lord!
3. And - So He Says:
  - “Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery!”
    - And Yet - What Has Become:
      - One Of The Most Prevalent Sins:
        - In Our Society Today?
          - Adultery!
    - And - It Has Even Caused:
      - Much Needless Suffering:
        - To Children, Families, Societies:
          - And Even Nations At Large!
  - 4. But - For Tonight:
    - Remember That - Even If You Are Not Married:
      - The Seventh Commandment:
        - Directs You To Meditate:
          - And Then Mirror:
            - The Faithfulness Of God:
              - To His People! Even:
            - The Faithfulness Of God:
              - To You!

- \* Do You Recognize Tonight God's Faithfulness To You?
- \* Have You Responded To His Faithful Care & Commitment To You?
- \* Will You Reflect His Faithfulness In Your Relationships With Others, Especially Your Spouse, If You Are Married?

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