

Purity of Heart and Soul: The Seventh Commandment Psalm 57:4-11

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The Seventh Commandment is simple: “Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery.”

The HC gives the meaning this way:

Q108: What does the seventh Commandment teach us?

A108: That all unchastity is accursed of God, and that we should therefore loathe it with our whole heart, and live chastely and modestly, whether in holy wedlock or single life.

Q109: Does God forbid nothing more in this Commandment than adultery and such gross sins? A109: Since both our body and soul are temples of the Holy Ghost, it is His will that we keep both pure and holy; therefore, He forbids all unchaste actions, gestures, words, thoughts, desires, and whatever may entice thereto.

Such doctrine and such morality is subject today to a great deal of ridicule and mocking. During the impeachment proceedings of the last president, it was agreed by the media that everyone lies about sex, that everyone has extra-marital affairs, and that those who say they don't and haven't are either liars or very perverted people, whose suppressed sexual desires, have made them cruel, vicious, mean, and harsh. The Special Prosecutor looking into the allegations of wrong doing by the former President and his wife became the special target for attack.

The Seventh Commandment is well nigh set aside these days, and those who would insist that its provisions be followed open themselves for attack. The attack comes in two ways, and I have already hinted at these ways. First of all, great effort will be made to dig into the life of the defender of the commandment to find if there are any secret sexual transgressions. If these are found, no matter how long ago and no matter how much the person has repented, the hypocrisy of the person is trumpeted abroad. If there are no such transgressions are found, then it will be suggested that the person has repressed his sexuality, and has become inwardly repressed and obsessed with sex, resulting in cruelty and meanness. This is the modern orthodoxy when it comes to the Seventh Commandment. If you are against adultery and fornication, then you don't believe in pleasure, and are cruel to those who do believe in pleasure.

“Unchaste” means “pure” and “holy” It means to be separated and sanctified. Both the

Christian man and the Christian woman are to be separated unto God; the man is to be devoted to his wife, the wife devoted to her husband. This is true because our bodies are temples of the Holy Ghost and are under the law of God. Your body does not belong to you, nor is it to be used in any other fashion than according to the commandments and will of God. I am reading from I Corinthians 6:15-20

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.

16. What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.

17. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

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

19. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20. For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Paul's argument is compelling; how can a man be devoted to God and give his body to fornication? The answer, of course, is he cannot. In fact, very often, sexual sin, adultery, fornication, and other perverted and corrupt sins that are too filthy to mention are very often the result of men turning away from God, and are the symptom of spiritual failure. In this passage the word "fornication" means all illegal sexual sin: basically sex with someone who is not your lawful married spouse. It includes what is normally called adultery, but also includes sex with the same sex, with animals, with close relatives. I am embarrassed even to mention such things, but in the modern day it is necessary.

This means that from your birth you are to be devoted to the person you will someday marry, and God's requirement is that you keep yourself for that person. Humanism and paganism scoffs at such a notion; in fact, it calls such a dedication unhealthy and unnatural. But it is sexual license that is the bondage.

Following the sexual revolution of the Sixties, men and women were "set free" to discard their old hang-ups, to give free rein to their desires. This was the primary driving force of the music of the sixties, the political movements of the sixties, and the generations that followed. "Make love, not war" was the mantra against Presidents Johnson and Nixon during the Viet Nam War.

The AIDS epidemic, however, has brought about some modification of the absolute liberty that was the ideal in that era, without however, returning to the old values of love and marriage. Sex is increasingly stripped of any romantic or religious significance.

But Paul definitely connects sex to religion, and says that sexual activity out of marriage is sinful, and defiling, because the body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, if you belong to Christ.

This is not an unpardonable sin, however, for the mercy of Christ is rich and free, and all sexual sins can be repented of and forgiven in Jesus Christ.

This brings us to Psalm 57.

The problem with the adulterer and the fornicator is commitment. He is not willing to commit to the responsibilities that go along with sex. There is a purpose in marriage and responsible sexuality, that goes beyond pleasure. It is true that pleasure is a component of sexuality and assures that the race will be propagated. But propagated how? Malachi says that God hates divorce because He seeks a godly seed—the world needs children who understand the idea of commitment to God and responsibility, and free sex, homosexuality, and adultery fracture the ties that bind us to community and covenant.

This Psalm is about David fleeing from Saul, but the emotions that David expresses here could very well be applied to the godly in the world. He felt that his soul was among the lion. There is a new book out by David Limbaugh, detailing the persecution of the godly in the modern age. You haven't felt that? How the wrath of the world comes down upon you if you say that homosexuality is wrong, that fornication is wrong, that adultery is wrong. As David you will feel that you are among wild beasts, or in the midst of a forest fire, or being devoured by those whose teeth are as spears and arrows, and whose tongue is as a sharp sword. They will accuse you of hypocrisy and of bitterness and hatred, of hate speech; they will prepare nets for you steps, to cause you to fall.

But notice verse 7: 'My heart is fixed.' What a wonderful contrast between the chaos of the world and the heart of the believer. "My heart is fixed.' Young person, you are a blessed person if your heart is fixed at an early age to fear the Lord and to live in chastity and holiness.

"Fixed" has the idea of "preparedness." To be prepared. David's heart was settled and fixed because he had prepared his heart to seek the Lord. He had determined by the grace of God to live a life of praise and singing to God. He calls upon his "glory" --that is, the glory of a man: his intellect, the tongue that expresses it; the imagination and the power of poetry and song: that which makes man better than the animals. Man is more than the beasts and live and die; for man is prepared by God to love him and to sing His praises, not to live as the beasts.

If a man is devoted to God, it did not come about by accident. It came about because he is moved by the Holy Spirit to prepare his heart and his soul to be fixed upon the Lord.

Jesus has gone into heaven to prepare a place for us. We are called to prepare ourselves for heaven. We are therefore to live in godliness, whether in the responsibilities of marriage or as singles in holiness and purity, for this is our calling.

I Cor. 6:13 "Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body."

What is the purpose for the body? Are you just an animal that eats and drinks and copulates. Is that all you are? No, Jesus said that the life is more than meat and the body more than raiment. God didn't give you a body so you could hang pretty clothes on it, and He didn't give you a life so that you could stuff the body with food. Neither did he give you a body so you could have sex. What is the purpose for the body:

It is the vehicle of the soul to live out a life of glory and praise to God. It is therefore to be presented to Christ, according to Romans 12:1,2, as a living sacrifice, that we live our lives in obedience and holiness for the glory of God; not doing what we want, and certainly not serving the body, but the body serving us in order to show forth the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness into the glorious light of the Lord Jesus Christ.

May God bless you.