

*“O How Love I Thy Law!”
The Seventh Commandment
“The Bridegroom”
Part 1
Exodus 20:14*

Introduction:

1. Tonight - We Return To:
 - The Seventh Commandment:
 - Of God’s Law:
 - Where We Are Told:
 - Clearly & Concisely:
 - “Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery!”
2. And - With This Commandment:
 - God Not Only Reveals More:
 - About His Own Nature & Character:
 - As A God Of Absolute Faithfulness!
 - But - He Also Reveals:
 - What He Thinks About:
 - The Very First Social Institution He Gave To Mankind:
 - Marriage!
 - God Desires & Even Here:
 - Demands:
 - Faithfulness Both:
 - **To** Marriage:
 - As He Created & Designed It!
 - As Well As Faithfulness:
 - **In** Marriage:
 - When You Are United To A Spouse!
 - 3. And Yet:
 - This Commandment Is Perhaps:
 - One Of The Most Ignored Commandments:
 - And Even The Most Rejected:
 - Commandment:
 - In Our Society Today!
 - That Is Why:
 - We Spent Some Time Last Week:
 - Listening To the Reproof:
 - That This Commandment Provides:
 - To Sinners Like Us!
 - Because - In Many Ways:
 - And - At Many Times:
 - We Have Failed In Our Duty:
 - Toward God & Toward Others:
 - When It Comes To Marriage!
 - 4. We Fail In:
 - Our Respect Of Marriage:
 - When We:
 - Reject The Institution Of Marriage Or:
 - Redefine Marriage:
 - To Suit Our Own Whims And Desires!
 - **IE:** I Have Seen This Failure To Respect Marriage Even Within Christian Circles Today! Several Mainstream Denominations Have Sanctioned Homosexual Unions As Normal, And Christians Have Given Away Their Honor By Attending Such Travesties!
 - Perhaps We Are Also Guilty Of Keeping Silence, Even Though We Know What This Kind Of Sin Is Doing To Our Society As A Whole!
 - And We Have Forgotten Part Of The Mission That We Still Have As God’s People In This Old World!
 - To - As Jeremiah 29:7 Tells Us - “Seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace!”
 - And - What Is It - Even In Society:

- That Has A Tendency To Produce Peace?
 - Righteousness!
 - Isaiah 32:17 - Though Talking About The Future Kingdom Of Messiah - Yet It Reveals The Divine Equation For Peace - “And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever!”
 - As Christian Citizens:
 - It Is Right & Proper:
 - To Stand Up For & Speak Up For Righteousness:
 - In All Matters Of Life:
 - Because With Righteousness Comes Peace!
 - And Yet - We Still Fail - Don't We?
 - We Also Fail In:
 - Our Relationships:
 - With People Of The Opposite Sex:
 - When We Think About Them Or Treat Them:
 - Merely As Objects:
 - To Satisfy Our Needs And Lusts:
 - Than As Individual Souls:
 - Who Are Made In The Image & After The Likeness Of God!
 - **IE:** This Is What We Find Going On With The Rampant Availability & Accessibility Of Pornography In This Digital World In Which We Live! According To The Barna Research Group, Only 1 Out Of 5 Users Of Pornography “Feel A Sense Of Guilt” When They View Porn! And, Shockingly, Only 1 Out Of 3 Professing Christians Feel Guilt When They View Pornography!
 - Another Way We Fail Is In Our:
 - Response:
 - To Temptations:
 - By Allowing Our Thoughts And Feelings:
 - To Stray Away From:
 - God's Definition Of Love And God's Design For Sexual Intimacy Within Marriage!
 - **IE:** Even Though Temptation To Lust And Infidelity Is Rampant All Around Us - We Still, All Too Often, Let It Stay In The Fringe Of Our Lives!
 - Proverbs 4:14-15 Tells Us To - “Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. / Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away!”
 - But What Do We Do Instead?
 - We Draw Closer & Closer To Temptation & Sin - Like Someone Who Wants To Get As Close To The Edge Of A Cliff Without Going Over!
 - And - Remember What Job Even Said He Did:
 - To Help Him Avoid Temptations:
 - As Well As Even The Appearance Of Evil?
 - Job 31:1 - “I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?”
 - Yet - How Many Times To We Still Fail:
 - To Guard Our Senses:
 - As Well As Our Hearts:
 - From Temptations To Sin?
 - And - We Also Frequently Fail In Our:
 - Roles & Responsibilities:
 - When We Are Given The Privilege:
 - To Marry Someone God Brings Into Our Path!
 - Husbands Fail:
 - To Love Their Wives:
 - The Way They Should! And:
 - Wives Fail:
 - To Submit To Their Husbands:
 - The Way They Are Supposed To!
 - **IE:** This Is One Of The Reasons Why Divorce Rates Are So High - Not Only In Hollywood Marriages - But Even In Christian Marriages!
5. Failure To Follow:
- Both The Letter & The Spirit:
 - Of The Seventh Commandment:
 - Is Commonplace!

- But - Praise God:
 - Who is The Faithful God:
 - There Is One:
 - Who Came To **Be** Faithful:
 - Even In All Of The Ways We Have Failed!
- And - That One Is - Of Course:
 - The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - And So - Whenever You Experience These Kinds Of Moral Failures:
 - In Your Own Life Or In Your Own Marriage:
 - You Can Turn To & Trust In Jesus!
 - Because - Not Only:
 - Does He Fulfill:
 - All Of The Commandments:
 - For You - He Then Offers His Aid And Help:
 - In Following **This** Commandment As Part Of His Family!

6. So - For The Next Two Weeks - Let Us See How:

- Where We Have Failed:
 - Jesus Has Been & Continues To Be:
 - Faithful!

* First - Jesus Is Faithful:

1. In His Own Great Respect:

- For The Marriage Union:
 - That He, As God, Set Up:
 - In The Beginning - With Adam & Eve!
- And We Can See This:
 - In John 2:1-11 - “And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: / And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage. / 3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine. / 4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come. / 5 His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it. / 6 And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece. / 7 Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim. / 8 And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it. / 9 When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, / 10 And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now. / 11 This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him!”
 - When Jesus Was Invited To This Wedding:
 - In The Town Of Cana:
 - He **Went** - And By Doing So:
 - He **Honored** It!
 - He Honored It:
- By His Own Company!
 - Now - Even Though The Bride & Groom:
 - Probably Knew Jesus And His Family:
 - They Didn't **Really** Know Jesus:
 - Because This Was At The Very Beginning Of His Three Years Of Ministry!
 - But - As The Very One:
 - Who Created Marriage In The First Place:
 - It Was An Honor:
 - Not Just For **Him**:
 - To Be Invited!
 - It Was An Honor:
 - For The **Couple** Themselves!
 - And This Too:
 - Is One Way In Which We Can Show:
 - Our Own Respect Toward Marriage:
 - And Especially Toward God-Honoring Marriages!
 - We Need To Encourage Young People Wait For Marriage - Before:
 - They Experience The Intimacy Of Marriage!
 - And Then - When They Do - We Need To Make A Big Deal About It! Because

- It Is Such A Counter-Cultural Thing Today!
 - But - Not Just Young People!
 - Couples Of All Ages!
 - Biblical Weddings & Marriages Are A Big Deal!
 - And - I Know That Weddings:
 - Aren't All That Fun:
 - Especially For Guys!
 - But - It Is A Way To Honor God And Others:
 - For Doing Things The Right Way!
 - But Jesus Further Honored This Wedding:
 - By His Own Contribution!
 - By Turning The Water Into Wine:
 - And - Into Probably The **Best** Tasting Wine:
 - The "Governor Of The Feast" Had Ever Tasted!
 - Jesus Had Great Respect:
 - For The Marriage Union:
 - And He Still Does!
 - John Gill - "To Attend A Wedding, Was Reckoned, With The Jews, An Act Of Beneficence And Kindness. Our Lord Being At This Wedding Was Acting Like Himself!" – "Also It Was Bearing A Testimony To The Institution Of Marriage, As Honorable!"
 - Have You Failed:
 - To Respect Marriage:
 - As You Should?
 - Remember - Where You Have Failed:
 - It Is Jesus Who Has Been Faithful!
 - So Keep Your Focus On Him!

* Second - Jesus Is Also Faithful:

2. In His Own Great Relationships:

- With Others - And Especially:
 - With Women!
 - You See - Jesus' Relationship With And Treatment Of Women:
 - Was Quite Different Than How They Were Treated:
 - By Others!
 - And - At Times - That Relationship Was Considered Scandalous At Times:
 - Even As We Find Taking Place In Luke 7:37-39 - When - "A woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, / 38 And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. / 39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner!"
 - Though This Might Have Seemed To Be A Scandal:
 - Yet - His Relationship - As A Man - With Women:
 - Though Different:
 - Was Always Right And Pure!
 - Jesus' **Attention** To Women Was Always Right!
 - Jesus **Saw** Women:
 - In A Special Way:
 - And Valued Them!
 - Even When Others Tended To Overlook Women:
 - And Did Not Consider Their Needs:
 - Jesus Looked On Their Needs With Great Compassion!
 - In Luke 7:11-17 - "And it came to pass the day after, that he went into a city called Nain; and many of his disciples went with him, and much people. / 12 Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her. / 13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not. / 14 And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. / 15 And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother. / 16 And there came a fear on all: and they glorified God, saying, That a great prophet is risen up among us; and, That God

- hath visited his people. / 17 And this rumour of him went forth throughout all Judaea, and throughout all the region round about!”
 - This Widow Woman - From The Perspective Of The World:
 - Had Lost Everything Of Value!
 - Her Husband!
 - Now - Her Son! And:
 - Likely Even Her Home!
 - But - It Was Jesus:
 - Who Saw **Her** & Approached **Her** & Had Compassion On **Her!**
- Jesus Also **Spoke** To Women:
 - In A Special Way!
 - Like When He Met With The Woman Of Samaria:
 - At Jacob’s Well In John 4!
 - But - When His Disciples Showed Up - They Were Shocked!
 - And - What Did They Think?
 - John 4:27 - “And upon this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her?”
 - Jesus Spoke With Her:
 - Because It Was His Word:
 - That She Needed Most!
 - More Than Even The Water She Came To Draw From That Well!
- Jesus Also **Shared** With Women:
 - In A Special Way!
 - When Women Were Sick:
 - He Shared With Them:
 - His Power To Heal Them!
 - When Women Were Sorrowful:
 - He Shared With Them:
 - His Love To Encourage Them!
 - Not Only Was Jesus’ Attention To Women Right:
- Jesus’ **Perception** Of Women Was Always Right!
 - In 1 Timothy 5:2 - Paul Tells Timothy:
 - How He, As A Young Pastor:
 - Was To Think About & Treat The Women Of His Church - He Wrote:
 - Treat - “The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity!”
 - I Believe This Is How Jesus, As A Man:
 - Lived His Life As Well!
 - The Older Women:
 - Jesus Respected & Treated:
 - As His Own Mother!
 - And - The Younger Women:
 - Jesus Respected & Treated:
 - As He Would Sisters!
 - “With All Purity!”
 - But - Remember - Jesus Was Not Just A Man:
 - He Was Also God Incarnate:
 - As John 1:14 Tells Us - “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth!”
 - And So - His Perception Of Women:
 - Was The Perception Their Creator & Their God:
 - As Part Of The Multitudes - We Are Told In Matthew 9:36 - “He was moved with compassion on them” - And Saw Them - “Scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd!”
 - As Both Son Of Man & Son Of God:
 - Jesus’ Perception Of All People:
 - Including Women:
 - Was Always Pure & Was Always Right!
 - Because - His Intention Was The Same:
 - For Them All:
 - Luke 19:10 - “To seek and to save that which was lost!”
- Jesus’ Relationships:
 - As A Man Toward Women:

- Were Always Right!
- Have You Failed:
 - In Your Own Attention & Perception Of Others?
 - Have You Thought About:
 - And Treated Others:
 - As Objects Instead Of The Souls They Are?
 - Created In The Image & After The Likeness Of God?
- If You Have - Remember Tonight:
 - That When You Fail:
 - It Is Jesus Who Has Been Faithful!
 - So Keep Your Trust In Him!

Conclusion:

1. We Are Going To Stop Here For Tonight:
 - And Next Sunday:
 - Look At Two More Ways:
 - Jesus Was Faithful:
 - And Fulfilled:
 - The Spirit Of The Seventh Commandment:
 - For Us!
 2. But - As We Close:
 - Remember That - When It Comes To:
 - This Commandment Or Any Other Commandment:
 - Whenever You Fail:
 - Jesus Remains Faithful!
 - So You Can Go To Him:
 - For The Cleansing:
 - You Need!
 - For The Correction:
 - You Need!
 - As Well As For:
 - The Capability:
 - You Need:
 - To Have Right Kind Of Respect And Relationships:
 - Even As Jesus Christ, The Great Bridegroom, Had!
- * Do You Recognize The Great Respect That Jesus Has For Marriage?
 - * When You Fail In Your Respect For Marriage:
 - Remember The Faithfulness Of Jesus!
 - * Do You See The Great Relationships That Jesus Had With Others?
 - * When You Fail In Your Relationships With The Opposite Sex:
 - Remember The Faithfulness Of Jesus!

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* Third - Jesus Is Also Faithful:

3. ***In His Own Great Response:***

- To The Temptations He Faced:

- As A Man!

- So - Even Though Jesus:

- As The Son Of God - In His Divine Nature:

- Could Not Be "Tempted With Evil" - As We Are Told In James 1:13!

- Yet - As The Son Of Man - In His Human Nature:

- He Could Be Tempted & He Was!

- And So - The Only Difference:

- Between Jesus' Temptation:

- And Our Own - Is That:

- The Source & Pull Of His Temptations:

- Was Always External!

- While:

- The Source & Pull Of Our Temptations:

- Are All Too Often Internal!

- Even As James 1:14 Tells Us - "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed!"

- But - Do Not Think:

- That Just Because The Source Of Jesus' Temptations Was Different:

- Than Yours & Mine:

- His Temptations Were Any Weaker, Because They Weren't!

- Because - Even Though:

- Our Lusts Seem So Strong:

- When In The Throws Of Temptation:

- The Temptations Of The Devil Himself:

- Would Be Even Stronger!

- And So - Let's Turn In Our Bibles To:

- Matthew 4 - Where We Will Read About:

- The Three Temptations Of Jesus:

- By The Devil Himself:

- There In The Wilderness!