

Title: Do Not Commit Adultery

Passage: Exodus 20:14

Summary:

The Seventh Commandment:

1. Teaches us about God's character
2. Points out our sinfulness.
3. Directs us to Christ and the need we have for Him.
4. Teaches us how to live freely.

Key Truths:

- Marriage is a life long legal covenant between one man and one woman, for their mutual joy, good of society, and the procreation of children. This covenant is meant to be a symbol of the spiritual union between Christ and His church.
- All sin is equally damning before God but not equally devastating. Adultery has devastating circumstances unlike any other sin.

Application:

- If a Christian, recognize the seriousness of the sin and the damage that it causes.
- If single, remember that the Bible calls you to purity.
- If you experience the pain of adultery, God can give you the strength to forgive and not let this linger in your life.
- If committed adultery and experienced consequences for sin and have repented, be encouraged and embrace God's forgiveness.
- If not a Christian, come to Christ.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- What steps can you take this week to insulate your marriage against affairs? (If single, what can you do to grow in godliness and purity this week?)
- James 1:22 admonishes us to be “doers of the Word.” What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have been exposed to?

Introduction

Story of when young, accidentally cut the main grapevine in someone's vineyard. Did replant it but it took years for it to grow back. Some vines never grew back. While it became fruitful again, it took a lot of time and hard work.

- Similarly, adultery is like cutting the main vine in the marriage.

Psalms 128:3a

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house

People generally fall in one of four categories:

1. Ones who have never experienced adultery.
2. Ones who have experienced the pain of adultery.
3. Ones who have committed adultery and have since repented and turned to God.
4. Ones who have or are committing adultery and don't see anything wrong with it.

Passage:

Exodus 20:14

“You shall not commit adultery.

EXPOSITION

Context of Passage

Exodus 1-19

- God has redeemed His people out of slavery in Egypt.
- The 10 Commandments are not to teach them how to be God's people (they already are)
 - They are guidelines / traffic laws (not prison bars)
- God's heart is for us and wants us to enjoy life in its abundance.
 - But there are guidelines to enjoy what God created.
 - Ex: If enjoy a game, need to abide by the rules. Otherwise it's a chaotic experience.

The Purpose of the Ten Commandments:

1. Teach us about God's character
2. They point out our sinfulness.
3. They direct us to Christ and the need we have for Him.
4. They teach us how to live freely.

I. THE COMMANDMENT TEACHES US ABOUT GOD'S CHARACTER

This Importance of the Covenant of Marriage in God's eyes.

- God is one of fidelity and loyalty.
 - Contrast: Outside of God, there is no such thing as fidelity or loyalty. Atheists view humans as merely animals with natural instincts.

- God is pro-marriage and pro-family because He invented it.

Genesis 2:18-25

Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.”

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Biblical Marriage (definition)

Marriage is a life long legal covenant between one man and one woman, for their mutual joy, good of society, and the procreation of children. This covenant is meant to be a symbol of the spiritual union between Christ and His church.

Marriage is a life long legal covenant

- Contrast: not merely a contract / transaction
- Christian marriage is a lifelong covenant between two people and God.

Malachi 2:14

But you say, “Why does he not?” Because the LORD was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant.

- Covenant: a solemn promise establishing an agreement between a man and a woman before God.
 - They promise each other to marriage for a lifetime and before God to help them to hold to it.

Matthew 19:6

So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

- When a marriage occurs, God Himself joins the couple together as husband and wife. God Himself is present in the wedding as He is putting those people together.

Legal

- Why "legal"?
 - Society changes the status of husband and wife as one legal unit together.
- Marriage was a public declaration that one's status has changed.

Genesis 29:22 (example of public feast)

So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast.

John 2:1-2

On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples.

- Today, the government issues an appropriate license. There is a public awareness that occurs where the two individuals are treated differently as a married couple.

between one man and one woman,

- clear through the Bible that marriage is only of one man and of one woman.

Matthew 19:4-6

He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

A. The way woman was created, she is God's divinely designed compliment.

Genesis 2:22-23

And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

- equal to the man but also his opposite. Not another man but a different human.
 - One came from the other.

B. The nature of the one-flesh union. This presupposes two individuals of the opposite gender.

Genesis 2:24-25

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

- both are made for the other.

C. Jesus Himself viewed the normality of the Genesis account that marriage is between one man and one woman.

Matthew 19:3-6

And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?” He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”Mark 10:4-9

They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away.” And Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”

for their mutual joy,

- includes sexual intimacy
 - Meant to be within the confines of the marriage covenant.
- Contrast: Satan attacks this area to bring about shame and division. Many become embarrassed about it.

1 Corinthians 7:1-5

Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

- God made us the way we are for a reason.

good of society,

- Every institution was created for the family and to promote the flourishing of families.
 - Governments
 - Schools

and the procreation of children.

Genesis 1:28

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

This covenant is meant to be a symbol of the spiritual union between Christ and His church.

- Marriage is meant to point to Christ and the church.

Ephesians 5:31-32

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

II. THE COMMANDMENT POINTS OUT OUR SINFULNESS.

- We are prone to break the covenant of marriage.

Adultery (definition)

The voluntary sexual union between a spouse and someone other than their spouse.

- Contrast: But isn't all sin bad?
 - All sin is equally damning before God but not equally devastating
 - Adultery has different circumstances than any other.
 - Contrast: adultery vs. cheating on taxes
 - Adultery breaks the core trust in marriage.

What is prohibited:

- Anything outside the boundaries of marriage: any kind of physical intimacy outside of marriage.
 - Forbidden on the same grounds as adultery.
- Examples:
 - Fornication (premarital sex)
 - Prostitution
 - Homosexuality
 - Incest
 - Polygamy

Why is sexual intimacy so important?

It is the glue that holds the marriage secure.

Proverbs 6:32

He who commits adultery lacks sense; he who does it destroys himself.

III. THE COMMANDMENT DIRECTS US TO CHRIST AND THE NEED WE HAVE FOR HIM.

- God treated adultery very seriously.
 - Not to be treated lightly.
- God demands justice for adultery

Leviticus 20:10

“If a man commits adultery with the wife of his neighbor, both the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Adultery is also committed through our minds

Matthew 5:27-30

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

- One sin deserves eternal damnation in hell.
 - We are all doomed and deserving of nothing but death.
- How does this point to Christ?
 - We recognize our need for a Savior.
 - Jesus lived the perfect life and experienced death as full penalty for our sin.
- Turn to Christ.
 - Once in Christ, you are a new creation.

IV. THE COMMANDMENT TEACHES US TO LIVE FREELY.

A. If a Christian, recognize the seriousness of the sin and the damage that it causes.

- Do not feed the flesh.

Romans 13:14

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

- Do not allow yourself close to the opposite sex.
 - Temptation for an emotional affair
- Do not be alone with someone of the opposite sex.
 - Leads to inappropriate situations.

1 Corinthians 6:18

Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.

Misperception: I have committed adultery in my heart. Since I am guilty, I might as well as go through it further physically.

- Physical adultery is entirely different than mental adultery (ex: lusting in mind).
 - Physical adultery severs the vine. Mental adultery impacts the vine.
 - Adultery provides grounds for divorce and violates bodies in ways mental adultery does not.

B. If single, remember that the Bible calls you to purity.

- Be godly, and not worldly.

C. If experienced the pain of adultery, God can give you the strength to forgive and not let this linger in your life.

- While the Bible allows divorce, it does not command it.

D. If committed adultery and experienced consequences for sin and have repented, be encouraged and embrace God's forgiveness.

- Live a life of holiness.
- Do not believe the lies of Satan. Your identity is not based on your sins but based on Christ.

E. Come to Christ.

Acts 16:31

And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."