The King James Bible was published in 1611. 20 years later, Barker and Lucas published it but had one major error. They left out a word. It was only a three letter word, the word “not” so you wouldn’t think it would be a major deal but it just so happened to be missing from the seventh commandment so this 1631 Bible read “thou shalt commit adultery,” earning the name Wicked Bible. The King fined them 300 pounds (a small fortune in that day) and revoked their publishing license and ordered all copies to be destroyed. But not all were. I have seen three of them: one at Princeton and one at the Museum of the Bible in DC.

The King came down hard because he knew how acidic adultery is to marriage, to children, to society. The Bible talks about sexual sin a lot. Sometimes this makes people think that God is a prude and anti-sex. Nothing could be further from the truth. God invented. All of it, including the nerve endings. It was his idea. And he has lots of restrictions around it because it is so precious. It must be guarded. Why do they not allow the Mona Lisa to be out in public? Because of its value. It hangs behind climate controlled bulletproof glass, with several feet or barrier plus guards. Not because Paris is down on it, but because of its value.

The heart behind the command is secure marriages, which lead to secure children, and secure societies. Like with the Fifth commandment (honor), we see God’s vision for the family. The marriage is the cornerstone for a stable society. This command is for the safeguarding of the gift of marriage and the promotion of the flourishing of the family.[1] Protection and perseveration. The strength of society is determined by the strength of the parent-child and husband-wife relationship. If the husband/wife relationship is broken, often the parent/child relationship will be broken, leading to a broken civilization. Turn on the news. The cure starts with the family and specifically the marriage. That doesn’t mean all are called to marriage but 91% of people will but even if unmarried you should care about this commandment.

What, then, is marriage? If it is just defined by love and commitment, why only two people? Why only humans, not animals? Why not between a child and adult? You say, oh that stuff will never happen. Well, terms are already changing. Pedophiles are now just MAPs – minor attracted persons. There was a 2018 TED talk calling for treating such people respect. They have not chosen their sexuality. Just this passed Tuesday (11/3/26), West Hollywood passed an ordinance allowing throuples, foursomes, and multi-partner relationships to be registered as domestic partners, affording them certain rights just short of what a married couple receives, but it’s a first step in that direction.[2] Its Christ or chaos beloved. Marriage is between a complementary pair: man and woman. One man one woman for a lifetime.

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[1] DeYoung, *The Ten Commandments,* 115.

[2] https://nypost.com/2026/11/04/us-news/california-city-to-allow-polyamorous-couples-to-register-as-domestic-partners/?utm_campaign=nypost&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter

God gave men especially a very strong sex drive so they would move out of their Mom's basement, put the games away, get a job, and find a wife. GKC sex is an instinct that produces an institution. When it comes to sexuality, the Christian path is good, but narrow: lifelong commitment within a heterosexual marriage.[3] Sex is God's good gift within the covenant of marriage. It symbolizes and achieves oneness.

What does the Seventh Commandment forbid? No sex outside of marriage. If you are married, you are only to be with your spouse. When we officiate marriages at SS, there is none of this writing your own vows business. We use the traditional vows and I love that line "forsaking all others." Benjamin Keach was an old Baptist pastor who wrote a catechism: Question: What is required in the seventh commandment? Answer: The seventh commandment requireth the preservation of our own and our neighbour's chastity, in heart, speech and behavior."

Adultery is acid. In a room this size, there is bound to be issues here. Does your marriage lack intimacy. This is where it often starts. Red flags. Do you have secret texts? Messages? Do you ever delete any? Do you flirt around with someone besides your spouse. For men, it tends to start physical, for women emotional. Are there any lingering looks toward someone besides your spouse? Do you enjoy being around them? They're nice. They listen. They laugh at my jokes. They appreciate me. Do you look forward to being around them? Think about them as you are getting ready for the day? I plead with you with the authority of God Almighty, run the other direction. Listen to "For me to think I'm above falling into this sin is to think that I'm wiser than Solomon, stronger than Samson, and godlier than King David."[4]
Nice, listens, caring. Physical You enjoy talking with them. Mint, cologne, two eyebrows, nose hair
Start sharing how you're struggling in your marriage.
He listens. Unmet emotional needs.
[The Six Steps to an Affair

- **Eliminate intimacy: Couples stop cultivating emotional, spiritual, and physical closeness in their marriage, creating a relational vacuum.**
- **Encounter someone: An individual meets someone outside the marriage whom they deeply admire, respect, or find highly attractive.**
- **Enjoying the relationship: The connection grows as they realize they enjoy spending time together, sharing laughs, or collaborating.**
- **Expediting the relationship: The bonding accelerates, frequently occurring in professional environments where coworkers spend hours "building a bridge to fantasy island."**
- **Expression of feelings: Boundaries completely break down when one or both individuals verbally confess their attraction or emotional attachment.**

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[3] Leithart, *The Ten Commandments,* 87.

[4] Voddie Baucham Jr., *Family Driven Faith (Paperback Edition with Study Questions): Doing What It Takes to Raise Sons and Daughters Who Walk with God* (Crossway, 2011), 24.

- **Experience: The progression culminates in physical intimacy once the right combination of time and an isolated location aligns.]**

The Sevent Command prohibits adultery, fornication, bestiality, incest, pedophilia, prostitution, and pornography. / Adultery is so serious that it breaks the bond of marriage. Scripture teaches that marriage is forever with three exceptions: death, desertion by an unbeliever, and adultery. **Matt 19:3-9.** The KJV translates it as "fornication," but that is too narrow. The term includes that, but is more broad than that. So the ESV is a better translation. Except for sexual immorality.

Here the term for sexual immorality is broader than adultery. This term *porneia* means any unlawful sexual activity. It can be found in Greek literature referring to a variety of illicit sexual practices including adultery, fornication, prostitution, and homosexuality. Any sexual practice outside marriage between a man and a woman that is prohibited by the Torah.[5]

Notice a few things Jesus does. He goes to the created order, about first principles. Have you not *read*? Don't you know the Bible? In the beginning, God joined one man and one woman to become one flesh for a life time. When a person gets married, it is God who joins them together. Therefore who do we think we are to separate? Jesus says that OC Law was just a temporary concession because of your hardness of heart. But I have come to conquer and change the hardness of your heart. And from the beginning there was no such concession. God's will from the beginning was one man and one woman for a lifetime. Permanent monogamous marriage.

Jesus here quotes from Deut 24:1, which was the only passage in the OT that explicitly dealt with divorce. Jesus says that to divorce, except for sexual immortality, causes adultery. Why? Because if you divorce for another reason, it is not legitimate. And therefore you are still married. So if you remarry, you commit adultery. If you divorce your wife, you cause her to commit adultery. If the divorce was not biblical, then the call is either to reconcile to your spouse or to remain unmarried according to Jesus. / **Matt 5:31-32.**

Here this: in the case of sexual immorality, divorce is permissible, not required and not even encouraged. God's will is never divorce; always reconciliation. Malachi 2 says God hates divorce. It is to be avoided but Jesus says that in the case of sexual immorality it may be necessary because it breaks the marriage covenant.

But divorce is terrible. It is the curse that keeps cursing. Both Alicia and I come from broken homes and God can repair and restore but we need to be able to talk about the disasters of divorce. If you are divorced, there is grace in Jesus but part of your maturity will be being able to talk about how bad it is. It costs anywhere from $15-30K, when contested 2-4 times that. Listen, you can pay for a lot of marriage counseling for that amount of money. An Ohio State study found that divorce reduces one's wealth by 77%

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[5] DeYoung, *The Ten Commandments,* 115.

while being married increases it by 93%. It is a nightmare for the kids and then the grandkids. Children of divorce are almost twice as likely to be suspended or expelled from school, 75 percent more likely to use drugs, and about half as likely to graduate college.[6] Kids have to endure war in the home, war in the courtroom, war on the phone, war over them.[7]

Dearly beloved, keep the vows you made before God and others. Divorce is never even mentioned. We don't use the D word. Billy Graham's wife Ruth once was asked how she did it: I have not once considered divorce. I have considered murder.

Once again, Jesus **deepens** and transforms the commandment for his NC church. 7th allowed polygamy and concubines and no fault divorce. The NC definition of adultery has changed. Just as there is no worry about murder if you handle anger, so there is no worry about adultery if you handle your lust. **Matt 5:27-30.**

The issue Jesus is after is not the mere feeling of arousal or the recognition of an attractive person, but rather the intent to look at someone in order to satisfy your desire.[8] A notice is fine, but it is no longer fine when it turns to disordered desire, covetousness, a lingering look, and lust.[9] Luther said we can't stop a bird from flying over our head, but we can stop a bird from nesting on our heads. Attraction is not a bad thing, but when attraction turns to lust, we have crossed the line.

And Jesus says get violent. Now, we should not take Jesus literally here. He is using hyperbole to prove a point. Hyperbole is extreme speech not meant to be taken literally but to drive home a point, and that point is that any sacrifice necessary to pursue sexual purity is worth it. He wants to shock us.

You may have heard of Origen. He was an early church father in Alexandria Egypt who sought to combat his lust by rolling over barb wire naked. As you can imagine, that didn't work. So, then he took the extreme step of castrating himself, thinking this was what Jesus wanted. I wonder how much regret he felt when he realized that you can be neutered and still struggle with the lust of the heart. Like the no regrats tattoo misspelled on the neck. Can't take that one back. You don't need an eye to struggle with lust. You can lust with your eyes closed. The point is take lust seriously.

Today, the main way lust is fueled is through pornography. The tree killer A's: anonymous, affordable, accessible. We want to be a church fighting this poison together. /

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[6] Brad Wilcox, *Get Married* (New York: Broadside Books, 2024), xii.

[7] Leithart, *The Ten Commandments,* 86.

[8] Dickson, *A Doubter's Guide to the Ten Commandments,* 134.

[9] DeYoung, *The Ten Commandments,* 117.

[The average age of first exposure is 11 by most accounts,[10] but others are saying it is now 9. By age 14, 94% of children will have seen it. 90% of boys and 60% of girls say there were exposed before 18. Just recently a friend told me his 1st grader was exposed to it at school here in Abilene.

Let me recommend a couple resources to help guide conversations between you and your children: *Good Pictures, Bad Pictures* (6-11) Jr (3-6), Pornography is bad pictures. "Bad pictures show the private parts of the body that we cover with a swimsuit." All our body parts are good, including our private parts, but taking pictures of them is not good. Its important to keep private parts private.

The number of years it took for each product to gain 50 million users. Airlines: it took 68 years to get 50M users. Cars: 62 years. Phones: 50 years. ATMs: 18 years. Cell phones: 12 years. YouTube 4 years. Fb: 3 years. PornHub: 19 days. 40M Americans are regular visitors. The porn industry's annual revenue is more than the NFL, NBA, and MLB combined. 1 of every 8 online searches and one out of every 5 mobile searches is for porn. Porn takes out 1/3 of the web's bandwidth.

This is staggering: 68% of church-going men and over 50% of pastors view it on a regular basis. Another study revealed that 64% of Christian men and 15% of Christian women admit to watching at least once a month.[11] 87% of Christian women have watched it. 57% of pastors say addiction is the most damaging issue in their congregation. According to *Covenant Eyes,* 1/3 come across it weekly, even when not seeking. 61% of young adults (18-24) seek it out at least once a month. 71% of teens have done something to hide what they do online from parents. And listen parents, they are smarter than you are with technology. More than 1 in 8 web searches are for erotic content.]

Jesus says tear out your eye and cut off your hand. Get deadly serious about fighting lust. Rom 8:13: "or if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live." We need to eliminate it at all costs. I have shared the story of Aron Ralston with you before. He was a 27 y.o. man from Southern Utah, who loved to hike and rock climb. He parks his vehicle, and journeys 7 miles from it to climb. Falls into ravine. 800lb boulder falls on right arm. 7 days, 127 hours. Pain like never experienced before. Sorry for the grossness here, but on day 5 he wrote epitaph on the rock as he realized he'd die there. Until he decided he had a choice. He could stay there and lose his life or use a dull pocket knife and lose an arm. He chose the latter and hiked the 7 miles back to his truck. Lived to write a book about it: *Between a Rock and a Hard Place.*

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[10] Stonestreet, 162.

[11] Stonestreet, 155.

Why should we take drastic measures against lust? Because the stakes are so high. Let me give two reasons, one from experience and the one Jesus gives us in the Text. First, it will ruin your life here and now. It will destroy your marriage. It will take your joy. It distorts your view of sexuality. Increasingly, it is violent and degrading. It distorts you view of the image of God. Turns people into objects. It dehumanizes. It is linked with social anxiety, depression, low motivation, lack of productivity, guilt, shame, decreases interest in sex with one's spouse, increases divorce, causes all kinds of disfunctions.[12] It is Idolatrous self-worship. It severs sexuality from relationship with one person for a lifetime, the way God intended and designed this good gift. It is the opposite of what God intends: tender, self-giving, and others-focused.

It creates addicts. It literally rewires your brain. Arousal releases dopamine, which is the neurochemical that leads to the reward center, which creates new nerve pathways, that encourage us to do it again, making it easier to do it the next time, and harder not to do it. Your brain connects the pleasure with the activity. The brain also releases oxytocin and vasopressin, which chemically bonds us to the other person.[13] The Bible calls this one flesh. That's why 1 Cor 6 said we become one body when we are intimate. When it is a screen, it is a pixeled prostitute. You are literally bonding with the screen.

Adolescents are more susceptible to forming addictions than adults because the dopamine neurons in the brain's reward center is much more active and have an exaggerated plasticity in response to addictive stimulus.[14] It hijacks the brain in the same way cocaine does. It stimulates the same areas of the brain and releases the same chemicals. Letting kids have unmonitored phone access is like encouraging an alcoholic to sleep on a cot in a liquor store.

And because of the way we are wired, this stuff never satisfies. You need more and more stimulation to reach the same effect. And the type of images gets stranger and stranger. A 2015 study from Cambridge found that pornography use can drive novelty-seeking, so users need more and more extreme content over time in order achieve the same level of arousal."[15] So it escalates because of its addictive nature. You need more and more to feel the same level of enjoyment so hard-core stuff is sought out. You enjoy it less but want it more and more. The prophet Jeremiah would say we are hewing out broken cisterns that hold no water.

So it destroys your life here and now. But what reason does Jesus give on why we should take lust seriously. He says it at the end of verse 29 and 30. For. Get serious about repenting of this sin for, because if you don't you will go to hell. Cut off your hand

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[12] Stonestreet, 165.

[13] McKnight, *The Sermon on the Mount,* 92; https://amgreatness.com/2019/12/15/a-science-based-case-for-ending-the-porn-epidemic/; https://fightthenewdrug.org/how-porn-affects-sexual-tastes/

[14] https://endsexualexploitation.org/publichealth/

[15] https://endsexualexploitation.org/publichealth/

or you will go to hell. Amputation occurs because something else might kill you. Infection may spread to the bone or whatever so you amputate a limb. Figurative amputation is better than facing hell. Jesus says we are talking about eternity.

Let's consider a @#$% step strategy for subduing lust. There will be some overlap with last week because sin is sin:

1. Realize that you can gain victory. In Christ you are fully forgiven and empowered by the Spirit. Pardon for the past and power for today. Rom 6: you must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God. Don't let sin reign in your mortal bodies. Sin will have no dominion over you because you are not under law but grace. You are set free from sin and have become slaves of righteousness (Rom 6:11-14, 17-19). There is hope for lasting transformation.

2. View it as war, because it is. Jesus says we cannot take it serious enough. Ryle: the Christian life is not a playground but a battleground. War requires drastic measures. Follow the example of Job: Job 31:1: "I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a virgin?" Take thoughts captive. Listen to the violent language of 2 Cor 10:3-5: "For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ." We wage war by violently arresting ungodly thoughts and take them captive for Christ.

4. Get accountability – you cannot do it alone. There is no biblical category for Lone Ranger Christianity. Lone rangers eventually become dead rangers. Heb 3:12-13: "Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin." How do we take care? How do we avoid sin? From hearing exhortations from fellow church members. We need one another to help us from being hardened by sin. James 5 says confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another.

6. Be watchful. Jesus said, "Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matt 26:41). 1 Cor 16:13: "Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong." 1 Pet 5:8 "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." Be on guard. Avoid temptation. Know your weak spots. If you were your own enemy, when and how would you go after you? Then shore those up! Is it a certain time of day (usually late for most people), location, shows, even music. Watch and pray.

Modesty

Build high walls. In other words, restrict access. Metaphorically tear out an eye and cut off a hand. Make it really hard to sin. This is much harder today than it used to be due to smartphones and tablets, but get serious, radical even. Are there stores you need to avoid, streaming services you need to cancel, devices you need to get rid of, travel you need to stop, purchasing ability that needs to be restricted, app stores that need to be

password protected, passwords you need to give to your spouse, browser access that needs to be eliminated. You say, whoa, I need the internet. Jesus would say you are not taking it seriously enough. Cut out an eye and a hand. Without high walls, you'll fall again. Prov 6:25-28: "Do not desire her beauty in your heart, and do not let her capture you with her eyelashes; for the price of a prostitute is only a loaf of bread, but a married woman hunts down a precious life. Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned? Or can one walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched?" Buy Covenant Eyes, or another filter, blockers, software. High walls will not change the heart but they can guard it as you do the work of heart change.

7. Wield the Sword. Memorize Scripture. Meditate on this passage or Eph 5 or 1 Thess 4.
1 Cor 6 Eph 5:3 Col 3:1-5 1 Thess 4 Prov 6:25 Job 31:1 9-12 **Gal 5:19-21, Eph 5:3-5, Col 3:5-8a, 1 Thess 4:2-5, 1 Cor 6:12-20** Pixel prostitutes.

8. Put off put on. Remember Ephesians 4? Put off your old self, renew the mind, and put on the new self. You see, it is not enough to merely kill sin. It must be replaced. John Piper writes, "We must fight fire with fire. The fire of lust's pleasures must be fought with the fire of God's pleasures. If we try to fight the fire of lust with prohibitions and threats alone – even the terrible warnings of Jesus – we will fail. We must fight it with the massive promise of superior happiness. We must swallow up the little flicker of lust's pleasure in the conflagration of holy satisfaction." Put off lust, and put on purity. 2 Tim 2:22: "So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart." Rom 13:14: "But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires." Put off selfish lust and put on love. Realize the object of your lust is a made in the image of God. We should be sickened by the entire industry.

8. Play the movie till the end. This is really about self-control. Packer: "The sweet bright fire, Of sinful sexual desire, Is a dreadful liar. Doesn't satisfy.

9. Look to Jesus. The nature of this sin carries with it an added layer of guilt and shame so be reminded of the glory of the gospel. Jesus is not ashamed of you, he loves you. He is for you. He died for this sin. The enemy would have you wallow in guilt and shame. Look to the gospel. Rom 8:1. You know the story in John 8. The woman caught in adultery. The religious leaders bring her to Jesus and say the Law of Moses says she is to be stoned. What say you? They were testing him. Jesus says, let the on who has no sin be the first throw a stone. One by one they walk away and Jesus says, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you? She said, No one, Lord. And Jesus said, Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more (John 8:10-11).

Benediction: Rev 1.5-6