

## **Keep Your Marriage Sacred – Well, How Sacred Is It?**

**Scripture:** Exodus 20:14; I Corinthians 6:13-20; Matthew 5:27-30

**Introduction:** Finally! The one you wanted the LEAST to hear (with other people around), but the one you really wanted to get the low-down on: adultery. 5. In our world today, some would say that Moses took all the fun out of living. But what we're going to find out is that God put all the fun back into living. It's also been said that the subject of sex has moved from fine-dining, to fast-food. The fact is, our culture has been bombarded today with images that remind us continually of our sexuality, and its constancy does its BEST to dull our convictions regarding it. While many don't even want to talk about this subject, this was a something that God wanted all His people to pay careful attention to.

### **I. What is the Seriousness of an Intimate Marriage before God?**

1. Adultery: So important was this that Leviticus 18 included homosexuality, incest, and bestiality in the same category as cheating on your spouse.
2. Sex is a fire, but God created a fireplace. God established a boundary for that fireplace that it SHOULD burn, but only in the fireplace of marriage.
3. Hebrews 13:4 – Paul also adds any type of sexual immorality.
4. I Corinthians 6:13-20 – Your body belongs to the Lord, not you.
5. Sex between marriage partners is a covenantal act.
6. I Thessalonians 4:3-7 – Paul details what sanctification is.

### **II. Jesus Up's the Ante (so to speak)**

1. Matthew 5:27 – You've heard it said... BUT
2. Adultery isn't just an action of the body, it's an action of the mind.
3. Adultery is (in fact), an infraction that starts with the heart.
4. Don't try to fix your external actions, unless you first take care of the heart's internal actions.
5. James 1:26 – The writer identifies a heart issue.
6. Proverbs 4:23 – Solomon says, "Diligently guard our heart."
7. Matthew 5:19 – Jesus (again) tells us "why" heart surgery is needed.
8. Ezekiel 36:26 – He gives us the cure.

**Lesson:** God dwells in the spaces of brokenness and weakness, and he is present every time of you fall. He is there to catch you with your spiritual bruised knees and all our emotionally broken limbs. At the end of our service, we are going to take communion again. There really is something quite miraculous about this ordinance of communion, because it's a constant reminder of how He brings healing to ALL of our greatest needs.