



"Protecting Your Marriage"

Pastor Jason West | August 27, 2023

Shiloh Community Church

I. The Seventh Commandment

Exodus 20:14 "You shall not commit adultery."

Romans 13:9 "For the commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,' and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

A. The Problem – Sexual Sin

1. Adultery Can Be Defined as Marital Infidelity

2. The Broader Greek Word for Sexual Immorality is 'Porneia'

Leviticus 18:20 "And you shall not lie sexually with your neighbor's wife and so make yourself unclean with her."

Ephesians 5:3-4 "But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. 4 Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving."

B. How Seriously Does God Take This Sin?

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."

Deuteronomy 22:22 "If a man is found lying with the wife of another man, both of them shall die, the man who lay with the woman, and the woman. So you shall purge the evil from Israel."

C. Why It Matters

1. Adultery's Effect on _____

a. Marriage as an Illustration

(Ephesians 5:31-32)

b. _____ Adultery

(Deuteronomy 31:16; Judges 2:16-17; Hosea 1:2; James 4:4)

2. Adultery's Effect on _____

3. Adultery is Playing With _____

(Proverbs 6:2, 27-28)

4. Adultery Can Lead to _____

(Proverbs 6:32-33)

5. Adultery Will Be _____ By God

(Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 6:9; Matthew 13:41-43)

D. Pursue Integrity

1. Make a Covenant With Your _____

(Matthew 5:27-28; Job 31:1; 2 Samuel 11:2)

- Example: David

2. Be Aware of Your Wandering _____

(Proverbs 6:25; Matthew 15:19)

3. Don't Fall Asleep on the Job

(Matthew 11:12; 5:29-30)

4. _____ Sexual Immorality

(1 Corinthians 6:18; Proverbs 5:8; 2 Timothy 2:22; Genesis 39:6b-12)

- Example: Joseph

5. Don't _____ Yourself

(Proverbs 18:1; Judges 14:11)

- Example: Sampson

6. Know That Lust is Never _____

(Ecclesiastes 6:9)

- Example: Solomon

7. Nurture Your Relationship With Your Spouse

(1 Corinthians 7:3-5)

8. Do Not Be _____

9. _____

(Ezekiel 18:30b; Psalms 51:1-2, 51:10)

10. Be _____ in the Grace of God

(1 Corinthians 6:11; Ephesians 5:31-32; John 8:10-11)



August 27, 2023

1. Familiarize Yourself With the Passage

- a. Read Exodus 20:1-26
- b. Read and study the context around the law
- c. Read and study the story/narrative around the law

2. Introduction to the Passage (Feel free to use this as a reference guide as you discuss the passage)

- a. Old Testament Law Interpretation Principle: All throughout the Mosaic law there is a dichotomy between clean and unclean. While the sacrificial laws were designed to reconcile the people of Israel to God and provide forgiveness, the practical rules/laws (do not steal, murder, commit adultery, dietary laws, etc.) existed to inform the people how to maintain practical holiness in their fellowship with God. In other words, we must understand there is a difference between one's "status" and one's "condition" before God.¹

For Israel, their status as God's children and nation was secure, but their condition, (clean or unclean), changed based on their obedience to God's commands. God's expectation was that they were to be clean through obedience, and when their disobedience deemed them unclean, they needed to seek forgiveness through the sacrificial system. In order to seek God at the temple or tabernacle (i.e. the place where he dwelled among his people) in worship, God required that they be clean/holy, or their lives could be consumed by his holiness (Leviticus 15:31).²

God's expectation that his people approach him in holiness does not change from the Old Testament to the New Testament. The only element that has changed is the means by which we live out that purity before God. We do not follow the same ritual practices. There are still principles by which we live out cleanness before God (lying, truth-telling, faithfulness to one's spouse, love of our brother, etc.). The other detail that is different is the means by which we receive forgiveness ultimately and in our practical relationship with God when we become unclean before him due to sin. Jesus Christ is the means for forgiveness and not the sacrificial/cultic laws. This is why deep reflection on our lives, and seeking repentance a forgiveness, both personally and in our relationships through Christ is important before we approach him in worship on Sunday mornings (Jeremiah 7:8-10).

3. Questions about the Passage

- a. What is adultery and what is the gravity of this offensive to God (1 Corinthians 6:18-20)?
- b. What is the heart behind this commandment (consider Matthew 5:27-30)?
- c. What are some forms of unfaithfulness in the heart (think of specific examples)?
- d. How important is your sexual purity in regards to your sanctification (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8)? Do you treat it as important as he does? If not, why?

4. From the Passage to Life

- a. It is important to keep our hearts in check in our marriages. What temptations does your heart struggle with in your marriage?
- b. What are ways that the world entices Christians to engage in lust/adultery and what guardrails are you putting in your life to defend against these attacks?
- c. There is a connection between committing adultery and coveting another person's spouse (Exodus 20:17). Adultery starts with a lack of contentment with one's situation or spouse. What are ways that you can delight in your spouse or be thankful for the season that you are in?
- d. How can you practically give honor to your marriage throughout the week? What are ways people dishonor their marriage throughout the week (Hebrews 13:4)?

¹Grant Osborne, *The Hermeneutical Spiral: A Comprehensive Introduction to Biblical Interpretation*, Rev. and Exp. (Downers Grove, IL: 2006), 191.

²Osborne, *The Hermeneutical Spiral*, 191.