



New Mount Zion M.B. Church
Bible Class May 11, 2020

“Understanding The Ten Commandments”
#7th Commandment

The Seventh Commandment is recorded in Exodus 20:14: “You shall not commit adultery.” This timeless law has never been more relevant than today.

Adultery in the bible is sexual relations between a married individual and anyone other than their spouse. In the Bible, adultery is punishable by death. It is also used as a metaphor for unfaithfulness to God.

God intended the sexual relationship between a husband and wife to be an exclusive, intimate bond to strengthen the marriage relationship.

Jesus Christ expanded on the Seventh Commandment to show the spirit of the law. He said even looking lustfully is mental adultery: (Matthew 5:27-29).

Some people in the first century, as today, felt that natural appetites must be fulfilled. The apostle Paul described this approach and countered it in his first letter to the Corinthians. “Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods [this was their argument], but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body” (1 Corinthians 6:13). Paul explained that the God who created our bodies and who wants to live in us, wants us to be pure.

We must flee from sexual immorality: (1 Corinthians 6:18). We must not give in to sexual lust and temptation, following the example of Joseph who fled from the advances of his master's wife (Genesis 39:6-20).

- How did Joseph deal with Potiphar's wife's advances?***
- Why did she react the way she did?***

David and Bathsheba (2 Sam. 11, Ps. 51):

- Can you trace the beginning of David's slide into adultery?***
- What other sins were committed apart from the act of adultery?***
 - How does this warn you about the dangers of adultery?***
 - Notice the specifics of his confession.***
- Notice also, the consequences of his sin, despite God's merciful forgiveness.***

Solomon's poetic conclusion: (Proverbs 5:18-20).

God considers adultery as unfaithfulness to the marriage covenant, and so He uses it as a type of spiritual unfaithfulness. Some of the most poignant descriptions of God's love also portray the treacherous betrayal of God's love and faithfulness by those who turn from Him.

Ezekiel 16 is an extended analogy about God's love for His people, and their spiritual adultery against Him and the terrible consequences.

God compared Israel to an abandoned girl He cared for and then married and cherished: “I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine,” says the Lord GOD. ...

“You were exceedingly beautiful and succeeded to royalty. Your fame went out among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through My splendor which I had bestowed on you,” says the Lord GOD. ‘But you trusted in your own beauty, played the harlot because of your fame, and poured out your harlotry on everyone passing by who would have it’” (verses 8, 13-15).

Therefore, the primary consequence of adultery is not unwanted pregnancies, HIV/AIDS, broken families or all the problems which comes along with it, but the primary issue is that it affects and destroys the soul. Proverb 6:32.

Each person has a soul different from the other person. What happens during sexual intercourse is the mixing up of these two different souls to bring out one soul. It is like having a glass full of blue juice and another full of red juice and mixing or merging them together. When they mix, they produce a violet colored juice. This is what happens when adultery takes place. Two souls merge or mix, producing one soul.

Outside of marriage, sexual intimacy destroys the soul. The two souls do not merge or mix. Relations outside of marriage does not unify souls instead it empties them. This becomes the reason a person feels empty after having adultery. You will hear someone say, 'others have become attached to them'.

Truly this is what happens. When you commit adultery, a piece of you, your soul, goes. The more you do it the more you keep on losing yourself until it comes to a point where you feel totally empty inside; just a vessel body which empty inside.

Anyone divorcing his wife, except for unchastity, makes her commit adultery, and anyone marrying a divorced woman commits adultery (Matt. 5:32); he who divorces his wife, except for unchastity, and marries another, commits adultery (Matt. 19:9); he who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her (Mark 10:11); if either husband or wife divorces and remarries, they commit adultery (Luke 16:18); if she lives with another man she will be called an adulteress (Rom. 7:3); if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery (Mark 10:12). I like to say it this way. Divorcing is permitted but not recommended.

If someone lusts after another, even in their heart, God knows about it and that's seen as adultery as far as God is concerned. Yes, the physical act is bad, but the mind conceives of sin and then later gives birth to sin and sin brings death (Rom 6:23) and we can sin inwardly without ever doing it outwardly.

When God joined Adam and Eve in marriage, the two became as one in the flesh (Gen 2:24) and the same thing happens when a man or woman have intercourse with someone who is not their spouse. The Apostle Paul asked, “Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh” (1 Cor 6:15-16) and the fact is “God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body” (1 Cor 6:13).

When you are tempted by seeing another man or woman who is not your spouse, then do what Job did. (Job 31:1)? He made a vow that when he looked upon a young woman, he would look away. That's still great advice for today.

Jesus condemns adultery and clarifies what constitutes it. He lists adultery alongside murder and other sins which defile a person (Matt 15:19; Mark 7:21–22). Jesus extends the Old Testament prohibitions against adultery: he applies them to not only women, but also to men. Jesus considered it adultery for either a divorced man or a divorced woman to marry again (Matt 19:9; Mark 10:11; Luke 16:18). Jesus also broadened the Old Testament prohibition of adultery to include looking lustfully at a woman (Matt 5:27–32).

Consider the following:

- *What you wear—you must not cause another to stumble.*
- *What you watch on TV—particularly, remind yourself of the list of damages because TV will rarely portray adultery in a realistic light.*
 - *Who you meet with—never in compromising periods with someone of the opposite sex; frequently for prayer and accountability with someone of the same sex.*
 - *How you discipline your time—particularly, ensuring that you have a regular pattern of Bible reading and prayer.*
 - *Your points of most vulnerability.*