

DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY

Scripture used: Exodus 20:14 (NLT)

OVERVIEW

The Big Idea! - God says "NO" to adultery. This week, we explore God's intention related to sexual relationships with someone other than your spouse. In order to understand the true heart of God, we need to understand that the 10 Commandments are Covenantal with Constitutional Implications. When God delivered the Israelites out of Egypt, He did so because He desired a relationship with them. In Deut 30:15-16, God calls on the Israelites to return to Him and reciprocate the relationship by choosing to obey His commandments, but He leaves the choice to do so completely up to the Israelites. God does the same thing with us. When we choose to obey and live out the commandments, it leads to blessings in our lives, communities, and the nation. However if we choose to ignore them, it will do the opposite: bringing disaster to our lives, communities, and the nation.

KEY POINTS

The last six Commandments are:

- 1) Relational in their focus. God's intention with these commandments is to draw us into a closer relationship with each other.
- 2) Radical in their setting. God considers men and women as equal, despite the cultural norm which treated women as, at best, second class citizens. Also, adultery is to be considered just as brutal a commandment as murder or stealing. The result of breaking this relational commandment is no more or less consequential than the other two.

The seventh Commandment reveals our:

- 1) Common instincts. Our dating practices today may directly translate into our marriage actions and choices later.
 - o There is something wrong with being cheated on. We don't feel the impact of cheating until we are the one being cheated on!
 - o Adultery separates Trust from Love. These 2 qualities are necessary in any healthy relationship. Adultery causes trust to disappear, which then causes an inability to trust in love.
- 2) Common Illusions:
 - o Adultery is an escape to something better. When we are trapped in broken relationships, we look elsewhere to find a pain-free environment. This leads us from love to lust. Matt 5:27-28 tells us that this is also adultery.
 - o There exists a love who will never hurt me. When trapped in broken relationships, we also attempt to try to separate sex and our emotions. This leads to destructive and unhealthy ways of thinking when it comes to sex in the context of relationships.

The Seventh Commandment affirms:

- 1) The Blessing and Sacredness of Marriage. When we marry, we all make vows before each other and to God committing to this marriage in sickness or in health, for better or for worse, etc. But in any marriage, it has to be centralized around God and His grace. When we reach the far extremes of any vow, whether good or bad, it will be God that carries us through.

How does one Recover as a Victim or Perpetrator?

- 1) Confess: Be honest about the experience and the pain.
- 2) Commit: Prepare to do what it takes to rebuild.
- 3) Cleave: Find in Jesus your worth and your hope.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - We heard some examples of how our past can cause us to lose trust in people and relationships, which may lead to adulterous tendencies. As you reflect on this, what areas in your life do you feel need to be revealed and laid down before the cross to restore the love/trust balance in your relationships?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND/DO** - God desires for us to experience the blessing and sacredness of marriage. What are steps you can take to either prepare yourself now for the sacredness of marriage or to improve areas in your marriage by allowing God and His grace to carry, change, or transform you? Focus on your own areas of change or improvement and lift those up to God in prayer.