

Shore Park April, 90 P.M. 11:00
Brenton Nov 2, 91 P.M. 11:00

THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

Exodus 20:14

INTRODUCTION:

Another girl had to drop out of school today. The girl speaking was a Junior High School student. The one about whom she was speaking had been added to approximately 200 Junior High School students in one Southern city who had to drop out during the school year for the same reason.

Beyond 250,000 babies born out of wedlock every year in this country -

Too many of us tend to hide our heads in the sand and refuse to see what is happening around our community. Immorality is not only paraded, but in some

cases it is glorified. Puritan America Avoided Certain Words speaking parts of Animals - White meat vs. Breast of Chicken; Second joint or Drumstick vs. Leg-

God lists this commandment, the seventh commandment - thou shalt not commit adultery, as a very serious one. It is next to murder. In the area of most of our modern cities, it is considered to be a harmless moral breach. And nothing is said about breaking the eternal law of God. But God reminds - thou shalt not commit adultery. Exodus 20:14.

Matt. 5:27 - Ye have heard that it was said, that thou shalt not commit adultery. But I say unto you that everyone that looketh upon a woman to lust after her, has committed adultery with her in his heart. Have you not read that he which made them from the beginning - made them male and female. And said, for this cause shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave to his wife and the twain shall become one flesh. So that they shall no more be twain but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man put asunder.

Thou shalt not commit adultery in this world which is dominated by males. A man's wife was regarded as a piece of property. And the greatest harm that a man can

do to another, is to steal his wife from him.

And then we had the emancipation of woman which owes much more to Christianity than we realize. In the ancient world, the position of a woman was usually a low and a degraded one. They were nothing more than just a thing in the household of a man. We find records of this way back in Egypt in which the attitude was - if good luck to you, you bear a child. If it be a boy, let it live. If it be a girl, expose it.

The unwanted child was often left in the open to die.

*People make light →
People do not know which way they are going. The wife → gently, "You've got your feet on backwards again." - the Professor husband replied testily, "What do you mean, backwards? How do you know which way I'm going?"*

Now in a few centuries later, they marry like all men. They beget children.

They do not cast away their off-spring. And I think one reason has been the influence of missionaries which has been a difficult task. Regardless of the old customs.

Some years ago, we were being influenced by the public attitude given out from Hollywood. There were those who had all sorts of affairs. And this created a terrific sensation. And there was little disgrace that was involved in it.

In 1954, an Englishman remarked, we have, It fear unfortunately reached a position where adultery, infidelity, or misconduct as soft-hearted people call it is considered to be a matter of little moment. It is no bar to the advancement of any high office - high or low, whereas any other form of stealing would mean the end of a career.

*When forbidden in London
Sacred prostitution carried on by high Bishops & called the women "Winchester Maids"*

*Babylon type of immorality practiced under cloak of Rel,
Socrates Admitted he had a Mistress*

I. THE COMMANDMENT DEFINED

God's first circle of society was a family. It was pure and sound in relationship. Hebrews 13:4, we read that there is nothing wrong about marriage.

It is the misuse of it that is sinful. But a man and a wife are united forever. And this forbids any unfaithfulness towards either. Marriage typifies a covenant relationship. There was a covenant between God and Israel. And Isaiah spoke of this. There is a covenant between Christ and his church. Eph. 5:22, Romans 5:14.

The Bible has much to say about this sin.

The Bible gives some examples of it. Gen. 19:33 - Lot and his daughters.

Gen. 34:4 Jacob and Bilhah.

The ruin of Dinah. Gen. 34:2.

The story of Judah. Gen. 38:2.

2 Sam. 11:4 - David and Bethsheba.

The prophets often spoke out against this. Nathan rebukes David. Jer. 13:27. Ez. 16:20.

As you consider the definition of this, you think about the penalty of death that was attached to it in Deut. 22:22, Lev. 20:10, Prov. 7:27.

There are some who look upon marriage as only legal - from a legal standpoint. They say the union of a man and wife is considered right because they have a piece of paper, to show that they have been legally put together.

But this piece of paper many times, may mean little or nothing. For in some

states it is easy to break. When we think about the definition of marriage, to define the character of adultery, we usually look upon marriage as having three parties present. The man, his wife, and God. Now many people today look upon it as a man, his wife, and the state. And of course, the state has a legitimate interest in marriage because it must protect the rights of children.

We find adultery in many forms. There is a temptation that is strong, and of course we hear everybody does it. And I don't think it matters. And these intense passions, conflicts, etc. Prov. 5:18 says, rejoice in the wife of your youth. Be always infatuated with her.

Someone may ask, well, now if this is wrong - why talk about it. This is a real problem today. And it was a problem for our grandparents.

We find that Jesus even dealt with this problem in his day. When he met that woman ^{wrote} who robed in the dust of the sand, and brought about forgiveness in her life.

This is the main theme of the commandment - it is to seek marital fidelity. And it goes deep - it goes into the human heart. The Bible says that out of the heart are the issues of life.

The public in general deals with adultery as a thing by itself. But there are some symptoms that are far deeper.

We say here is a disloyalty that involves physical violation, as a sinful act takes place.

It means unfaithfulness of one or both parties. Christ teaches that a man shall

leave his father and his mother, cleave unto his wife, the deepest of all human relations, is meant to be a unity and permanent.

Sometimes adultery is committed because of sudden impulses.

Often adultery is committed through deliberate triangle of relationships or an unrealistic view of life. Anyway you look at it, it is not legal according to God. The Christian idea in the marriage is permanent.

And the definition of this may also include any pre-marital relationships which may mean unchastity before marriage. Technically this kind of sin is called fornication. Now we live in a generation that some has called a sex resolution.

More and more young people feel that they must violate these integrities - that is expected of their partner or their comrades do so.

A learned scholar said of the 15 problems facing the world today - immorality was second on his list.

To define this originally, it meant relinquishing of some first and essential person - and giving one's self to a secondary person.

That means, adulterate. Like men adulterate concrete with too much sand.

God did not use the word impure, instead he said, thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not turn aside to another. Thou shalt not leave the person to whom you are bound, in obligation and rights and seek a certain person - or a secondary person. As we speak, the other woman - or the other man. And this brings swift disintegration this commandment.

And as you think of the definition of it, it is no longer a terrible tragedy in the public eye. It is not a thing that produces uproar. Because the dirty story today has become conversational in all classes of society. High School girls giggle over the recital of sinful adventures. Society has accepted in ordinary things - stories that were told in houses of prostitution.

The whole future of mankind rests upon strong, virtuous fathers and pure devoted mothers. Now God in his mercy can forgive any sin. And we cannot blame God for the visitation of punishment upon an unborn child. Because of some riotous prodigal father or mother.

Yet, to adulterate brings on social diseases. It extends all kinds of personal corruption.

Men become more bestly than animals - just to obtain satisfaction of their passions. King Benin had 4000 wives, He generously gave some away to his male servants for faithful service. one nation limited the king to 3,333 wives. Kings of Uganda said to have over 700 wives. King Mushi of Bad Key in Belgian Congo, was father of 910 children. Rama I old king of Siam - 3000 wives 370 children. Boobier T. Washington, Geo. W. Carver not know who their fathers were!

The wife no longer dares to trust her husband. The husband no longer believes in his wife's integrity. The young woman comes to regard with suspicious dread almost any man she meets.

Rel. Festivals, Morocco & N. Africa held Rel. Feast occasions for sexual license

Most of the pagans and those of the modern day have resented this seventh commandment. They hate it. They want to wipe it out of the books. And they want to do away with it. It is a simple, safe-guard of a precious gift. Which God has given and it is the responsibility of men and women to adhere too.

What is adultery? It is a sex experience outside of the marriage bond. Outside of the marriage relationship of two married people. What the Bible calls fornication is also the expression of sex with unmarried people. Sex outside of

marriage is sin.

II. THE CAUSES OF THIS SIN

It might do well for us to think a moment about the causes for adultery in this modern age in which we live.

Jesus said that there was an evil and adulterous generation. There can be no doubt that that is the time that we live in. When we think about the number of divorces and the number of problems which we experience in our time. We think about the pleasure and the profit which is pushed by all people.

There are people who say, well, it wasn't like this in our day. But they merely have to open their eyes and to see that it has been like this for a good while - since the world was created.

There seems to be less disposition to over-come the difficulties, which we have today. There was one time, when divorce was regarded as the last resort. Today, when things go a little tough, then it is the proper view by many.

I think the cause of this sin is the emphasis on the relationship of the sexes, the physical relationship. We are led to express thrills, excitement continually. People want the best and we are dominated by the idea of passion on every turn.

There is the unruly wills and affections of sinful men. There is the mixture of romance and sensualism, in the advertising of magazines.

There is the love life of Hollywood that is debasing - and movies.

And it has power of our youth.

But it is not just adultery which is wrecking marriages today. It is the easy way out - desertion. And many other ways are taken.

I was reading in one paper where one public school man said that the hardest job that he often had was to tell a boy that his parents were about to start divorce proceedings.

We find that we have orphans but the orphanages are not filled with orphans any longer. And it seems that we could hope through education, persuasion, moral enlightenment to raise the moral conduct.

It threatens family life, welfare children, and the history of this nation.

The children today deserve the best kind of home, that we can provide. But as vice grows and becomes a past-time, it is winked at and laughed at. And we move as though we have the passion of animals. Without any regulation.

There are people who say, well, what is life for. It is a state of uncertainty. Men and women will try to experiment - easy gratification. People cast off all kinds of restraints.

The Bible says, know ye not, that your body is a temple of the Holy Ghost. Why do you throw away all of these restraints. There are many causes for this sin - deep, inner, immature, down in the heart - somebody wants to go on an excursion of sin. A man who goes from woman to woman and then is unconsciously looking for another. Or here is a woman who hates someone. The reason maybe justified or unjustified. She takes her revenge out upon man after man.

Another cause is we are more interested in the body than normal appetites than we really are in being disciplined.

Another cause is plain selfishness. People violate this.

Dr. Jeff D. Ray used to say that sin did not come out full grown as Minerva leaped full grown from the head of Jupiter. That sounds all right in mythology. But find in the Bible that sin has a gradual process. First the blade, the ear, then the full corn in the ear. And the same thing is true in the spiritual world.

When you come to the kingdom of God, it is like the grain of mustard seed. It is less than all the seed on the earth, but when it is planted, it grows its branches, and the fowls of the air can lodge in it.

So sin started when Eve took that first step - she saw it, looked upon it, and gave it to her husband. And that was the downward way.

Idleness instead of work often brings about this sin. When we discover a man's brain is idle, the Devil makes it into a workshop.

Phillip B. Brooks used to say to his students - hard work and always added is a sure bullwark against temptation. He said a vacation spent in idleness at some watering place or summer resort was a good incubator for devilish thinking. Under such conditions, many men and women without foreseeing or even suspecting, have committed this sin.

Henry Ward Beecher once said, if you are idle, you are on the road to ruin. And there are few stopping places upon it.

Another cause for this commandment being broken is a violation of God's law

in marriage. One man and one woman. We find that David forgot God's law and fell. To this, the Bible tells us, that he had problems that were dangerous.

Another cause is the sin of luxury. When people loaf around in laziness and in luxury. And enjoy a lot of prosperity - then they seek physical gratification.

William Cobb, a politician and a contractor, made a lot of money maintained a wife in North Carolina and another fine home for another woman in Roanoke, Va. And it was all over - he said, I'm glad it is all over.

John Wesley once said, I do not fear for Methodists while we are poor and weak. My fear is, when we become rich and strong. How true it is, soul take thine ease. Many of devout man, pure hearted, with his simple home because of luxury, thick carpets, velvet slippers, rich foods, golf sticks, good cigars - all of these things become easy prey for this sin.

Sampson discovered this - he had supernatural strength. He had a special gift of God. But all of this parted when he fell to the lap of luxury.

Cleopatra cost Mark Anthony the Roman Empire and his own life, and perhaps, worse than all, the love and confidence of his wife, Octavia.

When people do not mind their own business this commandment is broken. And they try to pry into everybody else's home - where they have no business.

It is broken by looking lustfully upon a woman. No matter if a man says, well, I admire beautiful women. Well, it doesn't say anything about reverence in admiration. But it does say something about lust.

This commandment is broken when a man forgets his rightful position. God demands him to walk straight and to deal honestly. And many people think that they can trifle even with alcohol and drink excessively - and this leads to a violation many times of this commandment.

Therefore, in summary of the causes, we think of the slack marriage laws. Think of the low ideals of womanhood and manhood. Think of the filthy fiction that you see on the newstand. Think of the men and women employed together in great groups.

Think of the half-dressed society - where many times women dress in a suggestive way. I think every woman should think this out alone. Think of the low level companions and the cheap way in which some people live.

immodesty in dress, getting parties - impure minds no sense of decency.

There is no such thing as guidelines anymore concerning entertainment. You think of the adult newstand - unbelievable and full color pictures. You are confronted with this on the television screen. The very speech that is used today - is gutter language, that many years ago was used in locker rooms. But openly among women and young people. The conduct of people. Sex outside of marriage. Acceptable. Pre-marital sex, and living together in experimentation on college campuses. Play-boy philosophy. In which many have felt that chastity is out-moded. It is no longer reasonable to be pure and clean. Then of course, situation ethics has brought about the external standards which have been lowered.

One college President said "if anyone seriously believes that he cannot become well educated without girls in his room, he should get free of this university." (Walter Dorne)

The causes could be carried on and on.

The Bible says it can be mental immorality - whosoever looketh upon a woman to lust after her has committed adultery already, in his heart. *There is no happiness in this sin*

You don't want to do it - then stop thinking about it.

If you are thinking about it - then you will do it. It is caused by visual immorality. 2 Peter 2:14. Their eyes are full of adultery. Verbal immorality - I Cor. 15 Paul speaks about their communications becoming corrupt. And this ruins good manners, he says.

III. LET US THINK A MOMENT ABOUT A CURE FOR THIS SIN

Now marriage may be reduced to a civil contract by some without hope and without love - saying if it works, we'll stick to it. And they assume if it doesn't work, then we will make other arrangements. Professor E. O. James speaking upon fornication and adultery said that all irregular sexuality and the misuse of that which is right, and impulse for wrong - he says that gratification and desire will never bring the kind of pleasure they seek.

From the experiences at Sinai, the people were slowly to conquer the promise land. It was an easy process but it was prolonged. They moved in and much of it was due to inter-marriage. They took daughters and wives and gave their own daughters and wives - and sometimes they served other Gods.

And they joined these heathens in worship, and there was the feast to the futility God. Drunkenness, sexuality immorality, vice in the high places in the shrines where they had sacred prostitutes. Of these the false prophets gave their support. Hosea pictured the people as being enticed by God. Trying to win them back.

We are going to find a cure - we need to look first at our own selves. To get our minds and hearts centered upon the things that we desire.

The next thing we need to do is to find a cure to avoid such circumstances and occasions that might lead to infidelity. We are living in a society that stimulates such relationships. Many times men are forced to travel from home, 4-6 weeks, 6-8 months at a time.

We find that people need to avoid the circumstances of even the moderate use of alcohol. Which puts a man and a woman and especially a woman, into a position that they may easily lead to infidelity. The use of alcohol lowers the discipline center and the value of loyalty in a person's life.

As we think about the cure for it, never has anyone who has committed this wrong been able to justify it because it has always left a wound. David's reaction to his transgression of this law is universal. Psalm 51:3. "My sin is ever before me."

And it brings very much sorrow and robs a person of peace and creates a lot of conflict and takes away the flower from the home.

I've searched here and there for some suggestions and I would like to offer these for a cure.

First, don't be too cock sure of yourself. It may come to others but it cannot happen to me. People say, but you put a person in a dangerous group, and let him stay, and as the Bible says - "the man who thinketh he standeth, let him take heed lest he fall."

Second, don't trifle with sin. Many a poor fellow has gone down to defeat simply because he has said, I will experiment with this sin, in an innocent way at first, just to see how far he could go. And ultimately landed in the pit.

Third, don't give it a pretty name. Don't gloss over this evil. *Beautiful yet - Washington D.C. Big Police Problem - Prostitution - women openly all sections of city -*

Fourth, don't try to get rid of a sinful habit by your own strength. I think if the 7th chapter of Romans is often misunderstood, and thus applied because it would be a help here in the course of discussion. Paul says what I would do, that I do not. But what I hate, that I do. The good that I would, I do not, but the evil which I would not - that I do. He seems almost in despair when he cries oh wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death. He answers his own question. Thank God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. And that's it.

Don't put it all on God. If you want to find the cure, you need to resist the devil and you need to keep on fighting against sin, and striving earnestly for a holy life.

*Little Boy to Preacher I do not play marbles any more!
" why don't you play marbles?
" " Because Bible says Marble (manuel) NOT!!!*

Many people talk about what God has done and may yet do - don't put it all on God.

A woman was tempting a man to sin when he hesitated and refused, she wanted to know why. He said, because it is wrong. She said, I know it is wrong - but God will forgive me.

*Naples - women turned next to the church - Pope Julius II instituted Brotherhood in Rome
By time of Reformation estimated 100,000 prostitutes in London.*

Now Tetzel in Luther's day sold indulgences. Giving the man immunity in advance

*for unbridled lust. Priest bragged how they solicited some while in the confessional?
NY Times Oct 31, 1937 Priest got a young husband + wife drinking + seduced her.*

Now God is not at a bargain counter. Jonah did not want to do God's will and he got into trouble. And the all seeing eye of God was there.

We may be in a changing world, but the Ten Commandments remain the same.

The thief on the cross had a bad reputation, he had a poor record of conduct, and he did not have a good character.

I read of a custom about the Cherokee Indians many years ago in their marriage ceremony, the couple would join hands across a running stream to signify that forever their lives would flow together.

And that is exactly what this commandment is attempting to enforce.

Now a closing word about the correction and prevention of this sin. There are many who have broken this commandment. Now we need how to say yes and no clearly and sincerely. To preserve the purity and integrity in our lives.

The man who makes Christ the master of his life is in a better position to defend this. The same holds true of the woman.

With Christ as your master, the body become the Holy Spirit. The temple of the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit is the custodian to keep your body. And Paul says if a man gives himself to his wife, and she gives herself to her husband in sincere love, this will be a strength to hold them together.

We have to think why did God give this to the Hebrews and then to mankind. It is an attainable ideal - it is pure.

It will cultivate clean thinking, among those who fall in love and will be worthy of love.

But what if the seventh commandment has been broken. Even then many marriages have been restored. What if a person says, I have messed up my life, I have sinned - I have made a mistake. What do I do. Well, adultery - I want to hold out to you the promise of God's forgiveness. For whatever you feel you have done wrong or immoral in your life.

If you confess your sins, he is faithful and just to forgive you your sins and to cleanse you from all unrighteousness.

He will give you a new start in Jesus Christ.

I would take it that adultery, the attitude toward it, the sin of the heart - it is not the worst sin in the world which would be unpardonable. But we find that Jesus was able even in his adulterous and wicked generation to bring about restoration.

The Pharisees brought before him a woman that was caught in the very act of adultery. They inquired what they should do. Moses had commanded that that she be stoned by a suitable punishment.

What did Jesus say. For a long time he said nothing. But he made some marks on the ground. And he said, "he that is without sin among you - let him cast the first stone." And gradually they went away until he was left and the woman. And he said unto the woman, they do not condemn thee. And he said to her go thy way and sin no more.

*Mass. Courts 1631 - "if any man shall have carnal copulation with another mans wife, They Both shall be punished by Death, Lev. 20:10
Town Cardiff Part in Maryland Part Penn one section fine 10 other \$500 & 1 yr jail.*

Can anything be done about those who have sinned - of course! Jesus deals with this very gently as he does with the liar, the thief, or a hypocrite.

Dr. Allen tells about a little boy who lived in Tait, Ga. And he heard the

story of Mr. Sam Tait. There was a habitual drunkard in the community - and he said Sam, the boys rocked me last night. Maybe they were trying to make you a better man, replied Mr. Tait. Well, the poor fellow said, I never heard of Jesus throwing rocks at a man, to make him better.

And in the midst of the crowd of the guilty woman, the men who came for her death, slowly dropped their rocks.

The story of the Pastor in Miami Central Baptist Church had a little rock on his desk. He said when someone came in and talked about someone else in some judgemental spirit, he would say o.k. - there is the first stone, pick it up. He that is without sin, let him cast the first stone. That just might solve a lot of the problems that we have today in human relationships.

We tend to be rock throwers in our condemnation.

The wicked results of this sin take root against the individual, against the family, society, the nation, the race, and against God.

But in the Christian ethics, God has a remedy through the blood of Christ.
I Cor. 6:9-11.

Jesus on another occasion, Mary of Magdala, whom seven devils had gone out. The real startling thing that Jesus did was to trace the adulterous act to its origin - from within the heart of man evil proceeds. Fornication, thief, murder, adultery.

By this standard we are all condemned as we look at the pictures of a newspaper or some shiny magazine. The eyes stumble. Yet the weakest can turn to a great power of a new affection.

God will give us a new standing. The teaching of Jesus is that he is ready to forgive. Jesus encourages us to come and confess our sins to him.

His tenderness to those who had fallen by the wayside inspire us today.

The place to begin is right now in your heart.

As we listen to the tragic words of fallen women, fallen men, here is help. And God's law will lead us to forgiveness. Think about this. Mary, the virgin mother, stood at the foot of the cross.

Remember that this woman who had sinned stood with her. And remember she was the first to receive the message of the resurrection. To announce his birth God sent an angel. But the privilege to tell that he is living again, he had selected this fallen one - so whatsoever my sins, Christ alone can take away that guilt. And he can let me live again.

Dr. Luckott illustrates how he ran to catch a train and settled back for a short ride home. The train sped by his home and he called to the conductor and he said that he had taken the express. And how the local was on the next track. He had to ride 100 miles and spend the night in a city far from home. Many people have waked up to find themselves in somewhat the same fix. They started out with some habit that they thought they could stop whenever they desired. Only to discover that they were on a through train, riding a habit that would carry them to destruction, and shame.

Paul
I Cor. 6:9-11, and such were/some/of you, ye are washed, ye are sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus.