

SLIDE 1

No Adultery: The 7th Commandment

Live the 10 Series
 Lazy Mountain Bible Church
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Introduction

It had been three months since God had rescued the Hebrews from the hands of the Egyptians. The people had traveled through the desert being lead by the pillar of smoke by day and a pillar of fire by night which had stopped at the foot of the mountain they would come to call Mt. Sinai.

They had seen their God rescue them from 400 years of slavery, drown the entire Army of Pharaoh in the Red Sea. And now they watched as God summoned their leader his servant Moses up to meet with him on Mount Sinai. Then Moses came down and told them what God had said.

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Exodus 20:1-17 (NIV)

The Ten Commandments

20 And God spoke all these words:

² "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

³ "You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

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⁷ "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

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¹² “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ “You shall not murder.

¹⁴ “You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ “You shall not steal.

¹⁶ “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

¹⁷ “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

SLIDE 5 – Live the 10

We are in a series on the 10 commandments—called “Live the 10”—because we want to be a people who both **know** the 10 Commandments and who make **living** them an integral part of our lives.

Why? Because our savior, Jesus Christ, told us we were to be the light of the world

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Matthew 5:14 (NIV)

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world.

We are to be different, we are to live his light on earth.

But any look at our current situation in our world indicates that the light of the 10 Commandments has been and is being ever more rapidly extinguished from our lives and our children’s lives. Time does not allow me to delineate how just in the past 10 years the 10 Commandments have been removed from the walls of our courts and our schools. But suffice it to say as recently as just 100 years ago the 10 Commandments were on the walls and were taught and memorized in schools, and now they are not.

And yet our founders understood how foundational faith and the 10 are to building a nation.

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Our first president said:

“Do not let anyone claim tribute of American Patriotism if they even attempt to remove religion from politics”

And again

“It is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God and the Bible”

Our founding Fathers knew and understood the importance of knowing and living the 10 Commandments as a foundation to living free in a republic. And if the light of this truth is to shine again on our national consciousness, Jesus has assigned the mission to you and to me. Unless we commit ourselves to live the 10 again, we his followers, do we have any hope that anyone else will?

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James Madison, our fourth president and considered the Father of the Constitution said, **"We have staked our future on our ability to follow the Ten Commandments with all our heart.**

George Washington said in his farewell address, **"You can't have National morality apart from religious principle."**

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Those who commissioned the design and built our Supreme Court Building understood this: As you see from these pictures The Ten Commandments are etched into a walls and doors of the Supreme Court building and to this day the U.S. Senate starts every session with a prayer.

Our founding fathers would have wanted the Ten Commandments to be allowed in public places.

But God in his wisdom foresaw the change, so he made sure that our children would always know and live the 10 by giving the job of teaching the 10 to you and to me, their parents and grandparents. He foresaw the day when the 10 Commandments would no longer be engraved on our national culture, so he commanded each parent to make sure they were engraved on their own children's hearts.

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He said

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 (NLT)

⁶ And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today.

⁷ Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up.

So the instruction of God the father, is this: "Parents, they may remove my 10 Words from the halls of government, they may remove my commandments from our classroom, but you are the ones I give to pass the torch to the next generation, to make sure that they are never removed from the heart of your children."

So to give us a head start on this important task, we have been learning the 10 commandments in just 24 words. Take a moment, and test yourself. See how you are doing. Write down the 10 commandments.

Projectionist Pause

Now let us say them together.

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Let us say them together--The 10 Commandments in 24 words.

1. No other Gods
2. No idols
3. Honor my name
4. Honor my day
5. Honor my parents
6. No Murder
7. No Adultery
8. No Stealing
9. No Lying
10. No Coveting

The first four of the commandments tell us how God wants to be loved.

The next 6 tell us how our neighbor wants to be loved.

Today we want to talk about the 7th Commandment, just one word in Hebrew, and 5 in English.

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Deuteronomy 5:18 (NIV)

¹⁸ **“You shall not commit adultery.**

What does it mean to not commit adultery?

Returning from Sunday School one day, where the Ten Commandments had been the topic, our young son asked his father, "Daddy, what does it mean when it says, 'Thou shall not commit agriculture'?"

There was hardly a beat between the question and my husband's smooth reply: "Son, that just means that you're not supposed to plow the other man's field," an answer satisfactory to both of them.

-- Reader's Digest, July 1979, p. 87.

Violation of the Seventh Commandment was very serious. Thus was one of the capital commandment. It is one of the commandments that required, if you violate it, the punishment prescribed was death.

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The Capital Commandments were...

Honor Your Father and Mother

The bible taught if you dishonored your parents, you were to be stoned to death by the elders at the gate.

Thou Shall not Murder

The bible taught if you murdered, you were to be killed by the authorities.

Thou Shall not commit Adultery

The Bible taught if you were caught in adultery, both the man and woman were to be put to death

So obeying these commandments was literally a matter of life and death.

The bible taught if you didn't honor your parents, you were to be cursed and then put to death by the elders at the gate.

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Deuteronomy 27:16 (NLT)

¹⁶ 'Cursed is anyone who dishonors father or mother.' And all the people will reply, 'Amen.'

Deuteronomy 21:18-21 (NLT)

Dealing with a Rebellious Son

¹⁸ "Suppose a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey his father or mother, even though they discipline him. ¹⁹ In such a case, the father and mother must take the son to the elders as they hold court at the town gate. ²⁰ The parents must say to the elders, 'This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious and refuses to obey. He is a glutton and a drunkard.' ²¹ Then all the men of his town must stone him to death. In this way, you will purge this evil from among you, and all Israel will hear about it and be afraid.

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The bible taught if you murdered someone, then you were to be put to death.

Numbers 35:17 (NLT)

¹⁷ Or if someone with a stone in his hand strikes and kills another person, it is murder, and the murderer must be put to death.

The bible taught that if you committed adultery, the penalty was death.

Leviticus 20:10 (NLT)

¹⁰ **“If a man commits adultery with his neighbor’s wife, both the man and the woman who have committed adultery must be put to death.**

Now in our culture, the penalty for committing adultery as defined by the 10 commandments is not death, if so, statistics tell us that 1 in 4 of the men in the room wouldn’t be here and 1 in 7 of the women.

You see because study after study confirms that

-About 24 percent of men and 14 percent of women have had sex outside their marriages, according to a Dec. 21, 1998 report in USA Today on a national study by the University of California, San Francisco.

The Ten commandments are referred to in Hebrew as “The Ten Words”

And so adultery in the 10 commandments is defined by the Hebrew Word Naa-Ap.

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נָאָה (nā·āp): v.:(qal) **commit adultery**, i.e., have sexual intercourse with other than a spouse.

So to be clear, when God speaks this command, what he is forbidding is having any sexual relationship with anyone except your married spouse. What he is saying is that any sexual relationship outside of marriage is adultery.

There is a lot of confusion in our culture about what adultery is. But there is not confusion when you read the bible. God is very clear.

When I was teaching Confirmation, some of my middle school students said, “We can’t commit adultery, we are not married.” Nothing could be further from the Biblical truth. Any sexual relationship outside marriage is adultery.

So perhaps you are thinking, OK, I am not one of the 1 in 4 men, or 1 in 7 women who have stepped out. Let’s move on. This command is not a problem for me. That is a command that applies to others not to me.

That might be true until you happen to hear about this young rabbi who was speaking, and your friends said let’s go hear him, and as you were listening to him, you heard him say...

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Matthew 5:27-30 (NLT)

v. verb
qal *QAL*

Teaching about Adultery

²⁷ “You have heard the commandment that says, ‘You must not commit adultery.’ ²⁸ But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ So if your eye—even your good eye—causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your hand—even your stronger hand—causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

Suddenly, the mountain top goes quiet. Because everyone would know what the Greek word, **μοιχεύω** *moicheuo* /moy·khyoo·o/] means, it means (1) literally, of sexual intercourse with someone who is married to another *commit adultery* (MT 5.27); (a) active, as referring to the man alone with the feminine accusative as the object *commit adultery with* (MT 5.28; LU 16.18); (b) passive, as referring to the woman *commit adultery* (MT 5.32; 19.9);¹

And the word Lust, means desire, covet, lust after.

ἐπιθυμέω [*epithumeo* /ep-ee-thoo·meh·o/] v. From 1909 and 2372; TDNT 3:168; TDNTA 339; GK 2121; 16 occurrences; AV translates as “desire” eight times, “covet” three times, “lust” three times, “lust after” once, and “fain” once. **1** to turn upon a thing. **2** to have a desire for, long for, to desire.

So if my Middle Schoolers had any doubt, they most certainly can commit adultery just with their eyes.

You see, what God the Son is concerned about is not if we cross some fence, but what is going on in the heart! He wants us to exam our lusts, our desire, our longing.

He is saying, “Don’t defend yourself by claiming you followed the letter of the law, what Jesus wants us to examine is the heart...how our heart may be leading us astray. In other words if you stop at the word of the law, you will miss the heart behind the law.

God wants us to find our sexual satisfaction in and with our spouse. The one he has given us.

And why? Paul tells us.

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1 Corinthians 6:15-16 (NIV)

¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶ Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, “The two will become one flesh.”

¹Friberg, T., Friberg, B., & Miller, N. F. (2000). *Vol. 4: Analytical lexicon of the Greek New Testament*. Baker's Greek New Testament library (265). Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books.

And do you know the word the Holy Spirit choose for uniting with a prostitute?

πόρνος [*pornos /por-nos/*] n m. From *pernemi* (to sell, akin to the base of 4097); TDNT 6:579; TDNTA 918; GK 4521; 10 occurrences; AV translates as “fornicator” five times, and “whoremonger” five times. **1** a man who prostitutes his body to another’s lust for hire. **2** a male prostitute. **3** a man who indulges in unlawful sexual intercourse, a fornicator.

So here is the point. God is not a kill joy.

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If you were to see an "off" ramp sign on the freeway that says "do not enter" would you resent it or would you appreciate it? If you were trying to find your way on to the freeway and you didn't know if it were an on-ramp or an off-ramp you would appreciate the fact that somebody put up a sign that said "this ain't it." – Rick Warren “How to Affair Proof Your Marriage”

God does not hate sex. He invented it. But He invented it to be enjoyed within the security of Covenant love, the Covenant love that a man and woman have who have made a Covenant of marriage before God.

The Ten Commandments are like fences—fences with warning signs that says: do not cross. Toxic to your spiritual, emotional and physical health to cross.

What Jesus is saying is that a heart in tune with God is the goal—our focus should not be on the fence, but the Lord.

Woship Team comes forward

Nothing destroys a family faster than adultery. God says this is My protection plan. I don't want you committing adultery. Even the mere mention of this word causes some of you pain and memories and shame. The purpose of today's message is not to resurrect your past. If you have confessed a sin to God and you've been forgiven God has forgiven it and forgotten it and you need to too. If you feel guilty over sin that you have committed and confessed to God that guilt is not from God. It's from Satan. Don't let Satan condemn you for things that are in your past and have already been forgiven and forgotten when you've changed from it.

God says I've given you a drive called sex. Properly controlled and expressed within a marriage it's beautiful and fantastic. But outside of marriage it is destructive and detrimental to your health as a human being -- emotionally, spiritually, in everyway.

LI

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Live the 10!

Camelot

Probably no story better illustrates how the sweet, stolen water of adultery turns invariably sour than the story of Camelot. In this epic tale, the relationship of King Arthur and Queen Guenevere is trespassed upon when Arthur's most renowned and trusted knight Lancelot gingerly slips his toe across the marital boundary. It started with a look -- an innocent look, without premeditation or evil intent. But it was a short, slippery step from a look to lust, from infatuation to infidelity. The look eventually led to a touch. The touch sometime later led to a kiss. The kiss, to adultery. And adultery, to tragedy.