

THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT: HONOR MARRIAGE

Part 3 of LOVE PEOPLE. Exodus 20:14.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. July 24, 2022.

INTRODUCING THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

The Seventh Commandment

Exodus 20:14 (ESV) You shall not commit adultery.

The Meaning of the Seventh Commandment

A definition of adultery. The Anglican Catechism:

"Adultery is any sexual intimacy between persons not married to each other, at least one of whom is married to another."

Leviticus 20:10; Romans 7:2–3

To Be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism. (2020). Crossway

Put positively, God wants us to honor marriage:

Hebrews 13:4 (ESV) Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

The Implications of the Seventh Commandment

"Whether I am married or single, it means I will love and honor others as image bearers of God, not as objects of lust and sexual gratification, and I will refrain from all sexual acts outside of marriage.

Genesis 39:6b–12; Proverbs 6:25–28; Matthew 5:29–30; Philippians 4:8; 1 Thessalonians 4:3–7

To Be a Christian: An Anglican Catechism. (2020). Crossway

HOW TO HONOR MARRIAGE

1. Follow God's Design for Your Marriage

Matthew 19:3-6 (ESV) 3 And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" 4 He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 5 and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

- The origin of marriage: *he who created them ... said.*
- The partners in marriage: *made them male and female ... man ... wife*
- The purpose of marriage: *leave ... hold fast ... one flesh.*
- The permanence of marriage: *what God has joined, let not man separate*

2. Remember the Profound Meaning of Your Marriage

Ephesians 5:31-32 (ESV) Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

God has a sacred purpose for marriage.

Husband and wife represent the love Jesus has for his bride, the church.

By faith, powered by grace, begin to act in loving ways:

3. Invest in the Health of Your Marriage

1 Peter 3:7 (ESV) Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

Every relationship would be healthier if we understood each other.

Learn about each other. The Five Love Languages by Gary Chapman:

- Words of affirmation
- Quality time
- Receiving gifts
- Acts of service
- Physical touch

4. Affair Proof Your Marriage

Matthew 5:27-30 (ESV) 27 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart..

Jesus said, adultery doesn't begin in our bed, it begins in our head.

Take control of your thought patterns.

Refuse:

Replace:

NEXT STEPS - THIS WEEK

During the week, take some steps to reflect on and apply today's Bible teaching. Do this alone, or with a friend, or in your small group.

Do you agree with God's design for marriage? How can you work on being more deeply connected and exclusively committed?

Read Malachi 2:13-16. The passage explains how seriously God takes marriage. Reflect on its application to your life.

How would you rate the health of your marriage? What steps could you take to increase the health of your marriage?

Do you feel that your marriage is a faithful representation of Christ's love for his bride, the church? Ask for more grace to work on this.

Are you actively disciplining your patterns of thinking to affirm your marriage? What thoughts do you need to reject? What patterns of thinking do you want to develop? Ask for more grace to do affirm your marriage.

Take some time to thank the Lord for your marriage and to ask him to keep you faithful and to help you build a stronger relationship with your spouse.

Have you admitted to God that you do not always obey the seventh commandment perfectly. Do you believe you are a sinner in need of a Savior? If so, ask for grace to turn from your sins and your self to trust in Jesus for his cleansing and forgiveness. More information: Two Ways to Live booklet on the book table