

Commandment #7: You Must Not Commit Adultery

You must not commit adultery. (Exodus 20:14 NLT)

Adultery: sexual intimacy between a person who is married and someone other than his and her spouse (cf. Fornication: sexual intimacy between unmarried persons)

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. (Leviticus 20:10 NLT)

"Let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone...Neither do I [condemn you]... Go and sin no more." (John 8:1-11 excerpts)

"You have heard the commandment that says, 'You must not commit adultery.' But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 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. 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." (Matthew 5:27-30 NLT)

The biblical term for adultery refers both to the relationship between a husband and a wife but also to the relationship between God and His people

- To Jerusalem: But you trusted your beauty, and you used your fame to become a prostitute. You had sex with everyone who walked by. (Ezekiel 16:15 GWT)
- To would-be Christians: You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? (James 4:4 NLT)

Lessons Learned from David about Dealing with Temptation and Sin

In the spring of the year, when kings normally go out to war, David sent Joab and the Israelite army to fight...However, David stayed behind in Jerusalem. (2 Samuel 11:1)

Late one afternoon, after his afternoon rest, David got out of bed and was walking on the roof of the palace. As he looked out over the city, he noticed a woman of unusual beauty taking a bath. (2 Samuel 11:2 NLT)

#1: Be careful where you go and don't go where you don't belong.

#2: Obey the Law of the Second Commandment.

The "slippery slope of sin" (see James 1:14-15)

[David] sent someone to find out who she was... (2 Samuel 11:3a NLT)

#3: Curiosity killed the cat and is oftentimes harmful to people as well.

#4: When you make a mistake or commit a sin, admit it, and accept the consequences.

But the Lord was displeased with what David had done. (2 Samuel 11:27 NLT)

David: "I have sinned against the Lord." (2 Samuel 12:13 NLT)

Have mercy on me, O God...blot out the stain of my sins...wash me, and I will be whiter than snow...Create in me a pure heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me...Restore to me the joy of your salvation. (Psalm 51 excerpts NLT)

#5: Confession really is good for the soul.

If we confess our sins to [God], he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. (1 John 1:9 NLT)

No adultery – in behavior or in thought

No adultery – in our relationship with our spouse or with our God

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What factors contribute to the widespread sexual immorality in our times?
- 2) What does adultery have in common with the previous commandments?
What does this prohibition reveal about God? About our relationship with others?
- 3) What have you heard said about sex from a Christian perspective?
Why do you think we are oftentimes reluctant to address this subject in the church?
- 4) Is committing the physical act of adultery and having lustful thoughts the same?
Are they both just as serious in God's eyes?
- 5) What are some practical boundaries that married persons can implement to keep themselves sexually pure? How about unmarried persons?
- 6) How do we commit adultery in our relationship with God?
What are some ways in which we betray our vows to Him and become unfaithful?
- 7) What lesson(s) do you learn from David's experience? What is one thing you can do to avoid temptation and sin (maintain sexual purity or otherwise)?