

“God is Great, Beer is Good, &  
People Are Crazy”:  
The Ten Commandments

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Grad & Career Fall '11

# Desire for Faithfulness

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The Seventh Commandment

# Jesus on Adultery

<sup>27</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ <sup>28</sup> But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup> If your right eye causes you to stumble, 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. <sup>30</sup> And if your right hand causes you to stumble, 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 go into hell. - Matthew 5:27-30

# 1. Adultery as Impurity

## Practical Issues:

- Premarital Sex: *Spiritual vs. Natural*
- Lust: *Admiring vs. Using*
  - i.e. Pornography – the commodification of sex
  - i.e. Chick flicks – the commodification of romance
- Modesty: *Beauty vs. Sexual*
- Secular Influences: *Wisdom vs. Law*

## 2. Adultery as Unfaithfulness to God

“Scripture represents marriage as a reflection of our covenant relationship with God, To violate marriage is to violate that covenant, and unfaithfulness to God is adultery. All sin is unfaithfulness to God, spiritual adultery. So the seventh commandment, like the others, actually covers all of life from its particular perspective. Whenever we sin, we can think of it as marital unfaithfulness. And we should think of it that way, better to understand our radical need for forgiveness from our heavenly husband. The seventh commandment’s perspective on sin is a radically personal perspective, presented in vivid, sexual imagery. It yields a powerful motivation for repentance.” - John Frame. *The Doctrine of the Christian Life*

### 3. Adultery as Rejection of Grace

“Why should a brief, pleasurable encounter be such a serious matter? The deepest answer, I think is that adultery is covenant treason. Most people can understand why treason against one’s government in time of war should be severely punished, even by death. But the family is more fundamental than the nation. It is the root of all corporate relationships. As such, it reflects our fundamental relation to God, so that the mentality of rebellion is the same in both covenants. One who would cheat on his spouse would also cheat on God. The same attitude leads to both kinds of sin...

### 3. Adultery as a Rejection of Grace

“But Scripture, also uses the parallel between these covenants in a positive way. When God promised redemption to Adam and Eve (Gen 3:15), he also renewed their marriage. He removed the sexual shame of the first couple, as he made garments for them and dressed them himself (v.21). And throughout Scripture, when God redeems his people, marriage imagery appears...

Adultery, therefore, is not only covenant treason, but also a rejection of redemptive grace.” - John Frame. *The Doctrine of the Christian Life*

# Discussion Question

- What do you think of adultery being defined as impurity, unfaithfulness to God, and rejection of grace?
- What do you think your average non-believing friend would say about it?

Jesus, the Bridegroom,  
is Faithful

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# God's Promise to Allure

- <sup>14</sup> “Therefore I am now going to allure her;  
I will lead her into the wilderness  
and speak tenderly to her.
- <sup>15</sup> There I will give her back her vineyards,  
and will make the Valley of Achor a door of hope.  
There she will respond as in the days of her youth,  
as in the day she came up out of Egypt.
- <sup>16</sup> “In that day,” declares the LORD,  
“you will call me ‘my husband’;  
you will no longer call me ‘my master.’
- <sup>17</sup> I will remove the names of the Baals from her lips;  
no longer will their names be invoked.

# God's Promise to Allure

<sup>18</sup> In that day I will make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, the birds in the sky and the creatures that move along the ground.

Bow and sword and battle

I will abolish from the land,  
so that all may lie down in safety.

<sup>19</sup> I will betroth you to me forever;

I will betroth you in righteousness and justice,  
in love and compassion.

<sup>20</sup> *I will betroth you in faithfulness,*

and you will acknowledge the LORD. – Hosea 2:14-20

# Sex: A Signpost to Union with Christ

“Sex is an appetizer. Sex is a teaser. Sex is a sign pointing to something...The believer is seen as the bride and Jesus is seen as the bridegroom...Sex is like union with Christ... Great sex, the Bible tells us, is a parable of the Gospel...Sex, the ecstasy and joy of sex, is supposed to be a foretaste of the complete ecstasy and joy of union with Christ...Great sex is a parable of the gospel. To be utterly accepted in spite of your sin.” – Tim Keller, *Freedom of Purity; the Sanctity of Sex*.

# Eternal Life in Wedding Imagery

<sup>6</sup> Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:

“Hallelujah!

For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

<sup>7</sup> Let us rejoice and be glad  
and give him glory!

For the wedding of the Lamb has come,  
and his bride has made herself ready.

<sup>8</sup> Fine linen, bright and clean,  
was given her to wear.”

(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.)

<sup>9</sup> Then the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” And he added, “These are the true words of God.” – Revelation 19:6-9

# The Sacred Romance

“Romance is the deepest thing in life; it is deeper even than reality. Our heart is made for a great drama, because it is a reflection of the Author of that story, the grand Heart behind all things. We’ve seen how we lose heart when we lose the eternal Romance, which reminds us that God sought to bring us into his sacred circle for all eternity, and that despite our rejection of him, he pursues us still.” - Brent Curtis & John Eldredge, *The Sacred Romance*.

# The Sacred Romance

<sup>31</sup> “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup> This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. – Ephesians 5:31-32

