

Sermon Series: The Decalogue

Sermon title: "The 7th Commandment"

Scripture Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church

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Let's pray.

Well, today we come to the 7th Commandment and it is quite simple, **Exodus 20:14**, "Do not commit adultery."

I want to try and handle this text a little differently today than I have handled the others.

I had a long sermon prepared but I decided to re-work it from a different angle to focus on:

- A simple definition of adultery
- The seedbeds of adultery
- The strategy for guarding against adultery.

I. A Simple Definition of Adultery

This definition isn't hard. We surely know what it means. In Hebrew and in English it means..... sexual relations with anyone other than your spouse. Anyone, whether *they* are married or unmarried.

If you break the covenant relationship of marriage by being intimate with anyone else, you have committed adultery.

God frequently used the metaphor of adultery to address Israel's idolatry.

Adultery and Idolatry are both breaking a covenant relationship. Covenants are very serious things.

Now this prohibition **"Do not commit adultery"** includes any kind of sexual sin outside of marriage but we know from the Bible that any sex outside of marriage is sin....before being married, while married or after married.

This command was given, not because God doesn't think that sex is a good idea. In fact, he created it and blesses it within certain parameters.

This is important for us to know and say right from the beginning.

This command is negative, **"Do NOT commit adultery."**

But there is a positive reason behind it...and that is...

"Be faithful to your spouse."

So,....here is the **Main idea:**

The Bible forbids sex in any form outside of the relationship of a husband and wife – but encourages and celebrates it in that relationship.

So, here in the 10 Commandments it is clear that we are not to commit adultery. It is a sin against God. And this commandment is repeated in the New Testament.

I don't need to try to convince you today that adultery is wrong and sinful. Everyone knows this. Even those who condone or parade adultery on TV today do not think that it's right when it happens to them! Everyone knows it is wrong.

What we really want to know is:
How does someone get to the place where they do it.
How can we make sure that we don't commit adultery.

In order to answer these questions, we need to turn to what Jesus has to say about adultery.

II. The Seedbeds of Adultery

Matthew 5:27-30

You have heard that it was said, "You shall not commit adultery." But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed

adultery with her in his **heart**. If your right **eye** causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right **hand** causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

We need to say in beginning that the 7th Commandment and this text from Jesus is for both men and women.

Men have a certain kind of struggle and women have another kind. Nonetheless, both men and women struggle.

Now, no one just jumps into adultery one day. There is a cultivation process.

Jesus makes it clear that there is a kind of adultery outside of the heart, literally...and then there is adultery in the heart.

All of the commandments should point us to the sin in our hearts.

“For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.”

James 1:14-15

14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. **15** Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

So, the **SEEDBEDS** of adultery are in the heart. Fix the heart and you won't commit adultery.

Jesus says that if we look on a woman (or a man) with "*lustful intent*", then we have committed adultery in our hearts.

"lustful intent" here means desire or passion and comes from a root word that means to 'breathe hard'.

I think we all know when we are looking at someone with lustful intent. We may deny it but we know don't we.

Jesus says that if we don't take action against our desires it will lead to adultery in the heart and will lead to adultery of the body.

Jesus says that it's the heart but it's also the EYES.

Our eyes get us in trouble. The eye is the lamp of the body. Men especially, are very visual creatures.

A man's eyes are like high definition cameras and they record all they see.

This is why it is foolishness beyond measure to pretend that we can view things with our eyes and that it will have no effect on us.

From heart to eyes to hands.
Our hands get us in trouble.
This is taking an action step.
We desire, we look and then we take action.

So, we need to stop adultery from ever happening by weeding out the seedbeds. Pulling from the roots. We better know how to fight in a very sexually immoral world.

III. The Strategy for Guarding Against Adultery.

The heart-

We need to ask ourselves some hard questions such as:

Why do I want these things?

What is going on in my heart that draws me to this type of sin or this person?

Why am I not satisfied with what I have or where I am?

So, I simply want to start by encouraging you to dig deep into your heart and get to the roots.

Now, let's turn to what Jesus said in **Matthew 5** above to get some weapons for the fight.

1. Gouge out eyes and cut off hands.

Fleeing is a great strategy.

This simply means that we are to sever what it is that causes us to stumble.

Computer causing you to stumble? Take action. Smash it if you need to.

Pornography? Get a software on your computer or router and/or get an accountability partner.

Youtube? Block it from your computer or delete the app.

Netflix a problem for you? Cancel the subscription.

TEAR YOUR EYE OUT!

The eye is the lamp of the body.

If you want to have a clean heart and ensure that you never commit adultery, you must have a pure mind.

Therefore you must build a fence around your mind.

Why would you let any trash into your mind?

Isn't it hard enough as it is.

I never had any real victory over the lust of the flesh until I stopped watching stuff.

Do like Job and make a covenant with your eyes that you will not look lustfully on a woman. **Job 31:1**

Do this and you won't have to worry about your hands doing anything.

2. Flood your mind with battle verses from God's word.

I'll give you plenty here that I use and are helpful.

1 Corinthians 10:12

Therefore, let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

Romans 6

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? **2** By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? **3** Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **4** We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. **6** We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might

be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. **7** For one who has died has been set free from sin. **8** Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. **9** We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. **10** For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. **11** So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

You are not your own, you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Ephesians 5:1,3

Be imitators of God...but sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you.

John 6:63

It is the Spirit that gives life. The flesh is of no help at all.

Another woman will not give me real life. To commit adultery would bring me ruin and death. Hurt my wife, my kids, kill my ministry, bring shame and guilt.

Pleasing the flesh or gratifying the flesh...is no help to me.

If I want joy, peace, happiness, satisfaction and contentment...it comes from the Spirit and obeying Christ.

So....Number 1....Gouge out your eyes and cut off your hands.

Number 2.....Flood your mind with God's word.

Lastly, for the married....

3. Fight adultery with holy sex.

1 Corinthians 7:1-5

Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: *"It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman."* **2** But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. **3** The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. **4** For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. **5** Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

Main idea:

The Bible forbids sex in any form outside of the relationship of a husband and wife – but encourages and celebrates it in that relationship.

We live in a world full of immorality....yet we are to be holy and not commit adultery.

We can surely help ourselves by:

- In our hearts, minds and eyes make sure that there are no seedbeds for adultery to take root. If it takes root in our hearts and minds and eyes...we will be prime candidates to commit adultery with our hands.
- If we gouge out our eyes and cut off our hands....if we flee any hint of temptation and flood our minds instead with God's holy word....we will walk by the Spirit and not give into the flesh.

Lastly, we are all adulterers. We've all sinned. Some in public and some in secret. But we are all guilty.

There is hope for us as sinners.

Jesus died for our sins on the cross and took away our sin and shame and makes us new creations....clean and holy before him.

Praise be to God for his salvation in Jesus Christ.