

“THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT”

Text: Exodus 20:14

By Pastor YAU
August 30, 2015.

INTRODUCTION:

1) Why did God create sex? We all agree that sex is an important part of the continuation of human race and society, or at least that was believed to be the most important reason why God created sex: Procreation. God created it in all human beings for the purpose of population growth and continuation of human society. Later, we add more reasons to sex like pleasure, expression of love, intimacy, etc. In his infinite wisdom, God sees it fit to endow human beings with the drive and ability to have sex to fulfill his purpose of creation and to provide means to fulfill the needs of both emotional and physical expressions. The ultimate creation God had made was a woman to meet the needs of a man: “The Lord God said, it is not good for the man to be alone, I will make him a helper suitable for him.” (Gen 2:18) Then God pronounced the nature of this union, “For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be united with his wife, and they will become one flesh. The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.” (Gen 2:24-25)

2) How do men mess up on sex? Since very early in human history, men had messed up this wonderful gift of God, sex, big way. We read from history how sex has been used to create conflicts, murders, slavery and even wars. In this country, sex has divided the nation, the government and people, in family and all levels of human relationship. The abuse of sex and its consequence had been devastated among people, both in men and women alike. Millions of people continue to suffer from twisted and evil beliefs and practices on sex in our world at large and our society in particular. The liberal and progressive movements had plunged countless men and women into horrified situation by preaching and pushing the slogan of freedom of sex. The rampant immoral culture of this day pushes and promotes direct violation of God's law. One website that promotes

adultery uses a slogan that is despicable: “Life is short, have an affair.” The Commandment today, “not committing adultery” and all those who believe it are becoming targets of ridicule punishment and possibly persecution. This is the best time for God's faithful to take a stand on God's perfect law and practice it, preach it and lead others into obeying God and His command.

The Seventh Commandment: “You shall not commit adultery.” (Ex. 20:17)

BIBLICAL DEFINITION OF ADULTERY:

1) Adulterous act without marriage: “Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.” (Gen. 2:22) Regardless if anyone believes it or not, God was the first match-maker of the first couple in human history, a man and a woman put together by God to be a couple. This is the best and the clearest evidence that marriage was sanctioned by God. In this relationship, sex is created and sanctioned by God between husband and his wife. Any sexual relationship outside of marriage is deemed adulterous that includes casual sex and premarital sex by people who are not married, and extra-marital sex by people who are married. Adultery is an ancient problem which had plagued millions of people, families, society and culture all end up with suffering if not stopped, repented and forgiven.

2) Adulterous act with same sex: In the US Supreme Court, five liberal judges virtually rewrite the definition of marriage by sanctioned same-sex marriage in all 50 states in the country. Very early in the Bible in Lev. 18:22 and following, God forbade Israelite the sinful acts of homosexual which was popular among the Canaanites, and God promised severe judgment on those who violated his law. The Bible clearly addressed the cause of homosexual acts by defining it: “Do not lie with a man as one lie with a woman, that is detestable.” In the New Testament, the

teaching against homosexual acts is clear and complete: “God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way, the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust with one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.” (Rom. 1:24-27) Does God know all the excuses the homosexuals used to justify their sinful acts? Does God need to be reeducated by the liberals why and how sinful acts of sex among the homosexuals? Is there anyone smarter than God in this? So regardless of all the excuses and the legal perversion, homosexual acts are acts of adultery.

3) Adulterous acts of the mind: Jesus goes one step deeper in the adulterous nature of man, and he gives us a broader definition of adultery on the mind before it acted out in the body. “You have heard that it was said: Do not com-mit adultery. But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” (Matt 5:27-28) Keeping our acts from committing adultery is good, but keeping our mind and heart from adulterous lust is much better. Be alert of all kinds of temptations from people, places, reading material, TV, internet, etc. helps us to keep a clean mind and clear head that ultimately save us from the sin of adultery.

DREADFUL CONSEQUENCES OF ADULTERY:

1) It hurts your spiritual relationship: To Christians, this is the most serious consequence adultery would cause: We sin against God. When Joseph faced dangerous temptation of adultery, he realized it was a sin against God. “How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?” (Gen 39:9) Many of us usually worries about our sins against people, but Joseph sees it as sin against God. Adultery is a sin that definitely hurts our relationship with God.

2) It hurts your marital relationship: No one may know all the suffering and pain adultery had caused in marital relationship.

Countless otherwise sweet and happy marriages and families were shattered and destroyed because of adulterous acts of one or both spouses. It takes years or decades to build a marriage, but it can be destroyed in days by adultery.

3) It brings fear and doubt: Trust is very important in marriage relationship and adultery can easily level it flat overnight. After adultery, the shadow of fear of being cheated again may last for years that marriage and family life is no longer possible.

4) It can bring self destruction: Destruction of physical and emotional health is on the front of damages adultery will cause. It will also cause one to feel guilty and shameful in his mind, heart and spirit for many years. On the other hand, adultery could cost his reputation, his career, political future and social life and it could bring down all the things he had worked hard to build.

COMBAT THE TEMPTATION OF ADULTERY:

1) It all begins from the heart: Except those who are insane, we do what we want to do comes from our heart: The desires of the heart. King Solomon has good advice for all of us to combat the temptation of adultery: Control our hearts: “Above all, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of your life.” (Prov. 4:23) Once we control our hearts, most likely we control our actions.

2) Resist and flee from temptation: “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come close to God and He will come close to you.” (James 4:7-8) Here is a double defense mechanism: Resist temptation and get close to God. Be determined to resist temptation on one side, and stay close to God on the other. This double defense strategy will protect us from falling when faced the temptation of adultery.

3) Stop continue living in sin: If any one of us has fallen into temptation and sin in adultery, we need to stop living in it. The Bible has clear teaching on stop sinning and start living: “What then? Shall we continue to sin because we are no under the law but under grace?”

God forbid! Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in immorality to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them to righteousness leading to holiness.” (Romans 6:15, 19)

4) Seek forgiveness of God: “If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9) Confessing our sins to God doesn't mean God may not know our sins if we don't confess, but it means our determination to stop sinning. In doing this, God sees our sincere heart and remorse spirit, and he will forgive us our sins. If your acts of adultery has hurt someone close to you, you also need to ask them to forgive you and restore that broken relationship.

THINGS WE NEED TO KNOW:

1) God set rules for our own good: Many of those who violated the law of God had mistaken it that God set laws to take away their freedom or rob them of their pleasure of living in sin, the truth is just the opposite. Before they crossed the River Jordan, God sent law to the Israelites through Moses in Deutronomy. In 8:1, Moses told the Israelites the reason God had to set laws for their life: “Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase, and may enter and possess the land that the Lord promised on oath to your forefathers.” God never wants to take away anything good from us, but give all good things to us, and the best thing of all is the law, the Commandments. Violating the law of God to live in sin will never bring anything good for you, your family, your children and others who love you and want to see you prosper. Remember this: Sin never pays.

2) Kill the fire before it starts: You may think that I am stupid: How can you kill a fire when there isn't a fire? You are logical but I am not stupid. What I mean is don't start a fire so you don't have to kill it. We see on news many wild fires that burnt thousands of acres or miles started with a small mistake like a cigaret bud or the hot ashes of a camp fire. Small sparks had done so much damages to

properties or even lives. Adultery is the most dangerous sin of all. Accepting a temptation, a step to a wrong place, a lustful look or thought could lead you to something so dreadful and painful for the rest of your life and those you love. Remember: Prevention is always better. Martin Luther, the church reformist once said, “You can't stop the birds from flying over your head, but you can stop them from