

THOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY! - Part 7

Scripture: Exodus 20:14
“You shall not commit adultery.”

Introduction: This week topic is another sensitive topic. Everyone has their own idea and definition of adultery. If we judge ourselves based upon Jesus’ definition of adultery, none of us will pass the test. As we ponder this topic, let us try to understand the spiritual significance and consequence of this sin. Let us look at this sin from married people perspective and also from unmarried perspective. My prayer today is that we should not sin in this area anymore!

First of all, what is the difference between adultery and fornication?

Fornication is between two persons who are not yet married to anyone at all. Adultery is a sexual activity that happens outside of one’s marriage when that person or persons are already married!

The word adultery comes first in the Bible in Exodus 20:14 in this Ten Commandments passage!

The nuances of this commandment in Torah can be found in Leviticus:

Leviticus 20:10-21. “If there is a man who commits adultery with another man's wife, one who commits adultery with his friend's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.”

Note. The penalty for adultery is death.

Other parts of this Scripture passage talks about having sex with incest relation, bestiality, and even homosexuality.

Leviticus 20:13. “If there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death. Their blood guiltiness is upon them.”

We do not heed to these laws anymore. We have moved so far away to encourage even same sex marriage. Why? Because there is a serious challenge from science. Science insists that homosexuality behavior is genetic and one is born with that trait. But others say that human sexual behavior is a learned behavior. It is a fact that we all make a conscious choice to go after our sex object: either toward our spouse, or relatives, or children as in the case of child abusers, or even the animals. The prisoners can turn on and off their bisexual behavior just like that. When they are in prison, they can be an ideal homosexual partners, but when they come out of prison, they become heterosexual! From my personal experience, I believe that human sexuality is a learned behavior. It is of course genetically true that some people have more feminine or male genes in them. Yet they must stumble and learn the rope of human sexuality. They must make conscious, willful choice to move toward their target object. One can change their preference and liking over time, if they really want to, just like a bisexual prisoner accepts both ways. So we make conscious choice first, we start programming our likings and preferences in our brain, and then we experiment and learn through our sexual experiences. If we like it, we stay with it.

If we are confused about our sexual identity, why can't we follow the Word of God, and stick with it? Why are we putting so much stock on speculative science? Now the child molesters' behaviors are branded as a genetic behavior too! Where do we stop with this kind of speculative science that tries to talk with so much authority as though what it says is the absolute truth? The science has overturned the 6000 plus year history of heterosexual marriage into a strange debacle!

Now let us come back to Adultery out of wedlock. Let me speak to the married people here first.

David and Bethsheba story is an excellent example. Too much leisure time, and boredom lead him to this sin.

Why do we go after other people besides our spouse? There may be many reasons:

1. Most prevalent reason: spouse refuses to come together. This is the poison that kills the relationship for good! Even if other things were not going well, at least there was common pleasure in this area. But that too stops, and now they are not one flesh anymore. The love grows cold and withers.

Paul gives a strong warning concerning this matter.

1 Corinthians 7:2-5. 2But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband. 3The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. 4The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 5Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

Both must yield to each other according to wish of the other person. No one should force in this matter.

2. Sometimes we use sex as a punishment or bargaining chip, and that can really short circuit our relationship. If you don't offer yourself, they will find it somewhere else.

3. Or seek other partners for better experience.

4. Loneliness, rejection, unhappiness with the spouse.

5. Physical limitation of one's body, and not able to satisfy the other.

6. The other side looks greener.

7. Falling into sudden temptation. A sudden kiss, sudden touch, or due to alcohol or drug effect.

8. Control and conquer. Use charm and gain the trophy.

No matter what may be the reason, God does not want us to go somewhere else.

How can we stop it?

Stop justifying the action of adultery. We see this often magnified in the movies. Husband neglects the wife, but wife finds her love from someone else and engages in adultery. She justifies herself with her action!

Again we must come to Jesus for remedy!

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 lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye makes you stumble, tear it out and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. If your right hand makes you stumble, cut it off and throw it from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, than for your whole body to go into hell."

Jesus' saying: Even if you see someone with lustful eyes, you commit adultery. Stop entertaining adulterous thoughts in your heart, you do that when you watch movies that justifies adulterous relationship.

Adulterous heart that drives us toward sin.

We all have weaknesses when it comes to sex. Let us flee from our youthful temptations. Let us not look down on others who have weakness in this area. Pray for them. Many pastors have fallen down because of this sin. Many others are not exposed yet! This is a very vulnerable area for many pastors. Pray for them.

Jesus told the adulterous woman, sin no more! We should forgive the past actions, but must insist on purity for the present and the future!

Satan is attacking us constantly through sexual images, pornography, sexual fantasies, illicit relations. As Jesus said, cut it off! Change the channel and move to something pleasant.

Let me address about fornication for those who are not married here!

No sexual touches or foreplays before marriage.
If you touch a person with sexual motive, you better marry that person.

We are not some car that we can take around our new friend for a test drive. You cannot know a person fully even if you date intimately for five years. We all change fast over time. Our values and attitudes keep on changing.

I went to purchase a used golf set for my daughter. The person who wanted to get rid of his golf clubs told me that his wife picked up this sports one year back. But now she does not care for it at all! People change, and sometimes they change very fast!

We must think about a life partner when we are ready to marry. What age is the marriageable age?

Before we think about dating, we must ask these questions first: are you really ready to get married now? Are you settled well enough to start a family? High school, college affairs are nothing but fornication. There is nothing permanence in that relationship. They may all go in different directions.

They may all have different goals. Since there is no contract in that relationship, they may switch the partner just like that, when they find a better partner.

Dating. Josh McDowell's book. I kissed good bye to dating.

Don't even think about dating until you finish your college. Have a good, clean, wholesome fun with every one without touching. Avoid going alone with opposite sex. Sexual promiscuity starts with dating. Beware!

Paul says, Flee from youthful lusts!

Even if you are engaged to your spouse, stay away from fornication! Joseph was called husband to Mary even during engagement. Joseph was stunned to hear about Mary's pregnancy because there was no chance of Mary becoming pregnant. Why? He never had any sexual relation with her. So her pregnancy Joseph assumed that it was due to adultery. That's why he wanted to put her away quietly. The important lesson to learn from that story is that Joseph had pure, wholesome relationship. There was no fornication even when they were engaged!

Fixation on drug, alcohol, are not the only things. Some of us are fixated to sex, and it becomes a sexual idolatry.

Spiritual idolatry of Israel. Prophet Hosea story.

Conclusion. Marriage is a sacred institution. Let us not defile it.

Let me conclude with Paul's admonition concerning sexual:

1 Corinthians 6:15-20. 15Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? May it never be! **16**Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body *with her*? For He says, "THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH." **17**But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*. **18**Flee immorality. Every *other* sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. **19**Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? **20**For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

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