

“Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery”: Its Spirit, Depth, and Understanding

The voice from the midst of the fire delivered the seventh decree, establishing an absolute protective wall around the most sacred human covenant: marriage. Having barred the destruction of human life, the King of Heaven moved to protect the purity of the vehicle designed to propagate that life. The seventh commandment is a fierce declaration that human sexuality, intimacy, and covenant fidelity are not items of personal amusement or cultural evolution; they are holy territories governed by divine law.

“Thou shalt not commit adultery.” — Exodus 20:14

To the superficial legalist, this commandment is safely tucked away as a rule that applies only to physical infidelity within a marriage contract. However, in its spirit, depth, and understanding, the Seventh Commandment strikes directly at the internal orientation of human desire and fantasy. Because human marriage is designed to be a living parable of the relationship between God and His people, the spirit of this law reveals that any unauthorized fracturing of covenant purity—whether in the physical bed, the mental imagination, or through the adoption of man-made sexual ethics—is an act of profound spiritual idolatry.

Covenant Purity: How Honoring the Marriage Design Makes Him Your God

To have God as your God means you accept His definitions of purity, holiness, and boundaries for human relationships. Marriage was engineered at creation as a sacred, unified bond between one man and one woman. To keep this commandment in its true spirit is to actively guard the holiness of that union, treating your vows and your thoughts as an uncompromised sanctuary dedicated to the Lord.

“Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you: And the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it...” — Leviticus 18:24–25

“Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.” — Hebrews 13:4

The Mental Counterfeit: How Human Sexual Standards Serve Another God

The ultimate violation of the seventh commandment occurs when individuals or societies discard the biblical blueprint for sex and marriage to follow the statutes, laws, and practices manufactured by human culture. When a society uses human legislation to normalize adultery, sexual immorality, pornography, divorce for casual convenience, or any redefinition of marriage, they are setting up a counterfeit god. They are bowing to the god of personal hedonism and self-expression.

On a personal level, if we allow our minds to roam into the realm of unauthorized lust, we have already broken the covenant. We have chosen to serve our base desires over the King of Glory. Jesus unmasked the deceptive simplicity of the legalists by pulling the courtroom of the seventh commandment straight into the human heart, revealing that the eyes can commit high treason long before the body ever moves:

"Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." — **Matthew 5:27–28**

"Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you..." — **1 Corinthians 6:18–19**

Conclusion: Covenant Purity

The spiritual depth of the Seventh Commandment establishes that we cannot maintain a pure relationship with God while living in a state of chaos with our bodies. To truly have Him as our God, we must completely reject the shifting sexual ethics and man-made philosophies of the modern world. When we compromise our purity, excuse the wanderings of our eyes and hearts, or adapt our morality to fit human legislation and cultural trends, we commit spiritual adultery against the Almighty. We serve the god of flesh. To fully honor this commandment, we must bring our thoughts, our marriages, and our desires into total submission to His written Word, preserving our lives as holy vessels fit for the King.