



Marriage is so highly valued by God that it was one of the ten most important things He wanted to talk about! The seventh commandment leaves no room for doubts: “You shall not commit adultery” (Exodus 20:14). Adultery is sexual intercourse by either a husband or wife outside of marriage. Every command that God gives is for our personal and collective good, especially this one. God is clearly in favor of sex for both procreation and celebration! (Genesis 1:28; Song of Solomon and 1 Corinthians 7:5). As C.S. Lewis said, “After all, pleasure is God’s invention, not Satan’s.”

Billy Graham said, “The Bible makes plain that evil, when related to sex, means not the use of something inherently corrupt but the misuse of something pure and good. It teaches clearly that sex can be a wonderful servant but a terrible master; that it can be a creative force more powerful than any other in the fostering of love, companionship, happiness—or can be the most destructive of all of life’s forces.”

We surely need the help of God, and one another, to fully embrace this command. What a great privilege and perhaps greater challenge to experience the fullness of God’s blessings within the unconditional love found in a Christ-centered marriage.

1. How should we understand this commandment? (Exodus 20:14, Malachi 2:13-16)
2. What is God’s true intention for marriage? (Genesis 1:27-31; 2:18-25; Ephesians 5:22-32)
3. What are some consequences of adultery? (1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:15-20; David in 2 Samuel 11-12)
4. What are some blessings of fidelity? (Psalm 128, Proverbs 5:15-20; Joseph in Genesis 39)
5. Jesus extends this command to a challenging and personal level. How does it relate to adultery? (Matthew 5:27-28). How important is this in our relationships today? (5:29-30)
6. What has helped you to be faithful and fulfilled, to keep this command?  
(James 1:13-15; Job 31:1; Proverbs 27:20; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Timothy 2:22; Galatians 5:16)

“You can’t stop the birds from flying over your head,  
but you *can* stop them from building a nest in your hair.”

Martin Luther