

“Do not commit Adultery”

Exodus 20:14

Introduction

- We are taking a few months to go through the 10 Commandments found in Exodus Chapter 20
 - Now why in the world in New Testament age of Grace Times would we want to do that?

Well for one reason on Wednesday Nights we are looking at the Book of Exodus from which the 10 Commandments come in its entirety

- And seeing the context for what we are studying is so important and so I want to connect the two
 - This week.....

Okay, sounds interesting but why are we studying the law with all its weird customs and dietary laws

- Well remember the first five books of the Bible are called the Law, but much of it is what the New Testament calls the Law of Moses
 - the holidays the Jews were suppose to keep
 - the rights of cleanliness that the Jews were to do
 - the Law of Moses was given to the Jewish people for that time
- The 10 commandments are different – they are given to all people for all time
 - Why???

Why are the 10 Commandments Important?

#1 – The Law Drives us to Christ

- We wonder why don't people see their need for Christ? Why do people walk away from Jesus?

Why are the 10 Commandments Important?

#1 – The Law Drives us to Christ

#2 – The Law Directs us in Christ

- The Law shows us our duty to God and to our fellow man – this is how you love God and love people
 - And in a day and age where so many including Christians do whatever is right in their own eyes, because we have lost the standard
- We live in the age of Grace which I am thankful for, we could not be saved without grace
 - But we sometimes think well then it doesn't matter how I live, grace brother – no friend, there is a standard

Why are the 10 Commandments Important?

#1 – The Law Drives us to Christ

#2 – The Law Directs us in Christ

#3 – The Law helps us Discover Christ

- You learn something about the Law giver from the laws

Some of the laws on the books in our city governments let us know that at one time someone making laws was dumb

- Lets visit the great state of Massachusetts this week
 - Where it is illegal to take a lion to the movies
 - Snoring is prohibited, unless all of your windows and doors are locked tight

- Quakers and Witches are banned
- And in Nebraska
 - It is still to this day illegal to fish for whales
 - **Not let me put up a map the United States – (I don't know if you can put a yellow arrow pointing to Nebraska in the middle, but it would make it funny)**
 - Nebraska is a long way from whale fishing

But those laws tell you something about the lawgivers

- well the 10 Commandments are the same
 - and what we primarily will discover about God from His law is that He is love

“For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome” - I John 5:3

- As we keep His commandments
 - Not to save us, not to qualify us for His love
 - But just as we are directed in Christ - I experience His love for me
- And this is obviously true as we get to commandment number seven...

“You shall not commit adultery” – Exodus 20:14

None of God's commandments are without importance, including this one – no matter what people may think

- What people??

Well – Ted Turner – that would be the Ted Turner, owner of TBS, the Braves, the Atlanta Hawks, used to be married to Jane Fonda – the old political activist turned workout guru – He was quoted a few months back with all the 10 commandment controversy – “If you are just going to have 10 rules, should adultery really be one of them”

- I wonder if that is why He was formally married to Jane Fonda, and Jane Smith before her and Julie Nye before her!

But we can think that way

- we need to understand this tonight
 - what does it mean to commit adultery
- If you break down the Hebrew word God uses in our text it literally means – **Adultery means “unlawful intercourse”**
 - Unlawful – yes, meaning biblically – sex that is outside of the design and structure that God created it to be in

Here is something to might shock you

- God designed sex, in fact God ordained it to be
 - God designed and ordained that we would leave father and mother, be married and be joined together sexually in the covenant of marriage
- Now why in the world did God ordain and design something like sex
 - Well the Bible gives you and I three main reasons and these are critical to understand why it is that God forbids adultery

Why did God create, ordain and design sex?

#1 – For Procreation

- making babies
 - in the garden of Eden in Genesis chapter 2, to Noah in Genesis chapter 8 – God says “be fruitful and multiply” –
 - it is God's design

Why did God create, ordain and design sex?

#1 – For Procreation

#2 – For Recreation

- Pastor Jason!!!
 - hey it is biblical

Proverbs 5:18-19 – “Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice with the wife of your youth. As a loving deer and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured with her love.”

- That is what the Bible has to say
 - I won't even get into quoting Song of Solomon – God designed sex to be simply enjoyed in the covenant of marriage

“Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled” – Hebrews 13:4

- There is nothing dirty, there is nothing disgusting

Oh – what the world puts out certainly is and can be

- But God designed and ordained for you to enjoy sex with your spouse
 - Now – listen – most important for our study

Why did God create, ordain and design sex?

#1 – For Procreation

#2 – For Recreation

#3 – For Unification

- What? – God designed there to be within the covenant of marriage through the sexual act a unification of you and your spouse
 - **“Therefore man shall leave father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh” – Matthew 19:5**

At the moment of intimacy – there is much more than a physical act occurring – there is a spiritual act where your soul and the soul of your mate are being unified, joined together and a oneness is developing in your life

It is like if I had two glasses up here, one filled with red food coloring, and the other filled with blue. And I begin to mix them together, their redness and their blueness disappear and what's left is purple – a oneness, and the same color exists in each glass. No longer red and blue, but one.

- So too friends – that is why God designed sex
 - For procreation – that you might have kids
 - For recreation – that you might have fun
 - For unification – that you would be one

Now with that understand – we begin to see why God commands me and you not to commit adultery

- Turn with me to Proverbs chapter 6

Solomon – one who had walked this path in his own life, is writing to his son, look with me starting in [verse 20-32](#)

One who commits adultery – one who has unlawful sex, that outside of the design for marriage – Solomon says “lacks understand”

- you don't get it – you don't understand
 - the world teaches that sex is primarily for recreation – having fun
 - they understand science that can also be involved in procreation – having kids
 - they understand medically that it can result in contamination – getting sick
- So the message goes out

- Use a condom – you eliminate the procreation, you most likely eliminate the contamination and all that left is recreation – and who doesn't want to have a little fun
- Solomon would say – you lack understand

You see as we looked at just a moment ago, God's design for sex does not just deal with procreation and recreation, but unification

- and when sex takes place outside of marriage, there is still this mixing of souls
 - of who you are, and who they are
 - there is still a mixing of souls but without having that place where oneness develops
- It does not matter how much you love Him, how cute she is, or how sincere your intentions are
 - Sex outside of marriage creates instability instead of oneness
 - The statistics bear it out – **80% of those who have sex before marriage, never marry the one the act took place with**

There is an instability, not an oneness and yet there is still a mixing of souls

- There is still part of who you are, and part of who they are being exchanged
 - But because there is no oneness, instead of unification, there is desecration, destruction

Illustration of two pieces of paper glued together – These two have been in sin, they spent the night together last night and there has been an exchange of souls

- but they are not married and so there is a separation, oh no
 - it is never a clean break

And the world understand this

- young men speak in the locker room, "I got a piece of her last night"
 - that is exactly right – a piece of who she was, a piece of who you are, has now been ripped away

That is why Solomon says, "By this a man is reduced to a crust of bread"

- and there is a destruction of your own soul
- Paul says in 1 Corinthians.. **"Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body."** – I Corinthians 6:18-19
 - Something happens, there is a tearing away of who you are

So Solomon writes to give us insight

- It is sweet, but the end is hell
 - Now we are not talking about damnation, eternal separation...
 - We are talking about what will happen in your heart – hell will be unleashed in your heart, in your home, in your life

Again I am amazed the world is beginning to see it

- USA Today reported recently – "unmarried life is depressive" – studies showing those who simply live together not in marriage were 10 times more likely to suffer depression, and to have dissatisfaction with life and each other, than their married counterparts – a study of 300 married and 300 unmarried couples
 - Then of course the study goes on to say – this is not to say living together is unhealthy, many stable relationships as not bad for anyone" – they don't get their own study
 - The facts are there, but they don't see it – because they don't want to see

But it's what God our Father who designed us is telling us – don't do it – not that I am mad at you or coming down on you (use illustration of my kids – it is just the way it is – you are hurt him and yourself) – the cross brings forgiveness – but the sin will bring effects

- There a destruction of the soul

And maybe you have caught it

- but I have been going back and forth between sex with others when you are married and sex before you are married
 - and that is because the words used are very similar
- **Adultery means “unlawful intercourse**
- **Fornication means “illicit sex”**
 - Illicit means unlawful
 - They are very much the same

And whether you are married or not

- the ramifications are greater if you are married
 - your family, your ministry
- But the results are the same
 - Destruction – depression

In fact studies have shown that a man or a couple who fornicate before they are married are twice as likely to commit adultery once they are married

- You see the direction you take now in your life, have a great potential to affect you later in life
 - So we want to be free
 - If you are single – you want to live pure
 - If you are married – you want to live pure
 - But how???

So how do we avoid sexual sin?

- again Solomon in says Proverbs 5:7
 - “don't go near the door”
 - Now that is not speaking about the door of the house of prostitution
 - that word means the entry way

Satan is wise and often does not throw the whole package before you at once

- here, cheat on your wife and loose your family
 - here, become a crack head and never get anywhere in life
- No – there are doors, there are entry ways which lead into deeper and deeper sin
 - What are they in reference to sexual sin

One obvious one – the word fornication is the Greek word pornia – from where we get our English word - pornography

- Pornography is a door
 - The porn industry grosses more money than every other entrainment, movie, music, TV combined – that's heavy
 - And the percentage of people in bondage would shock you – it is well over 50%

Why is it so bad, why is it a door way to adultery

- because listen - The plan of the enemy is to get you dissatisfied with your spouse

I wish my wife looked that way – I wish she treated me that way – it lessens your marriage future or current

- It rips you off from the joy or the future joy of your marriage – as idea and images are put in your mind

- There is nothing adult about it – it's adolescent

There is nothing gentlemanly about it

- What a joke – The bible says “show yourself a man – a man does what He sometimes doesn't want to do – because it is right – that is manliness, that is adult, that is God's desire
 - Now you women and cheering – your next..

You need to be careful

- men are visually stimulated and connections are made in the brain of what represents intimacy and what does not on what they see – that is why pornography is dangerous
 - but ladies you form the same bonds emotionally

Be careful that you do not stand by the door emotionally to someone who is not your spouse

- whether that is on face book
 - whether that is at the office
 - because you will begin to think – why doesn't my husband treat me like that, why isn't he interested in me like that
 - and the door opens
- And we need to run

This is what Jesus brings up in Matthew 5

“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.” – Matthew 5:27-30

- you have heard it said of old
 - You shall not commit adultery, but I say to you anyone who lusts after...
- Jesus says we need to deal with it radically

What do I do – repent

- Realize Jesus has forgiven you – don't let the enemy condemn you
 - Don't be hopeless
 - God can restore the years the locust have eaten the book of Joel tells us
- Don't be hopeless
 - But make a decision to start pursuing after God with all you are
 - You see I believe you must replace a passion with another passion
 - You must become passionate about Jesus
 - Dabbling will not do you
 - You need to see how close you can get to Him, His Word, what He has for you
- You need to turn your eyes upon Jesus
- You need to look full in His Wonderful face
- And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace