

GOD'S GUIDE TO A GREAT LIFE
Sermon Series on the Ten Commandments

BLESSED ARE THE SEXUALLY PURE

Exodus 20:14

This message is so difficult to give, not because of the verse's length (5 words in English) or the topic's complexity (it's not) but because of its prevalence and the numerous sensitivities associated with it.

Realize that while the Seventh Commandment addresses primarily marital infidelity, Jesus clarified that it doesn't do so exclusively – adultery is a state of the heart long before it becomes an act of the body. Sexual impurity has now been made so easy for us by the internet and social media particularly. Look at how this passage is so relevant to us today:

1. We have a **WARNING** to heed: **YOU SHALL NOT commit adultery.**

- The Definition of this sin:

Jesus expanded the definition in His Sermon on the Mount: Matthew 5:27-28 "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

- The Heinousness of this sin:

In the overall design of God, marriage is preeminent as the first institution in the Bible. God established marriage before He ordained government, corporations, even the church. The seventh commandment is God's way of guarding the harmony of marriage, the sanctity of the family, and the preservation of society.

Adultery is a crime against persons and a sin against God (Gen 39:9; 2 Sam 12:9). It is the social equivalent of the religious crime of having other gods (Exod. 20:3) since marriage is a mirror of God's covenant with His people. If murder is a violation of life itself, adultery is a violation of its most important and sacred human relationship, marriage. Both Old and New Testaments reserve the harshest words for this sin: Leviticus 20:10; Proverbs 6:27-35; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Thes. 4:6-8.

2. We have a **CALL** to repent: **You shall NOT COMMIT ADULTERY.**

- The Prevalence of this sin

- 1) First, and most obviously, there's physical adultery. This refers to all forms of sexual liaison outside marriage – both extramarital and pre-marital.
- 2) There's also mental adultery (Ephesians 5:3-5). This refers to all causes of sexual impurity defiling a person's soul: e.g. lustful thinking, pornography, etc.
- 3) Finally, there's emotional adultery.

• The Practical Measures against this sin: Three action points to help us obey this commandment:

1. First, work on your relationship with God. Develop a God-consciousness in which you live in His presence, talk to Him throughout the day, and seek to obey His Word fully. If you think you could never fall into this sin, think again.

2. Second, pursue personal purity in every area of your life

- I must purposefully avoid lust-producing situations – not just places or circumstances; beware of the Internet and cellphone Apps.
- I must purposefully avoid provoking lust in other people.
- I must come clean with fellow Christians about my personal struggles.

3. Third, nurture and guard your marriage.

3. You have an INVITATION to Hope: “Go and sin no more...” John 8:11

• The Redemptive Grace of God

To the married who have succumbed: God is more forgiving than people; ask forgiveness from both nonetheless. Just don't demand instant forgiveness – let love and time heal all wounds. Instead, pray unceasingly that God heals all who were hurt. Then prove your love with words and actions.

To the unmarried who have succumbed: you are not damaged goods. When facing the consequences of past sins, God is not judging you. He has not placed a verdict of lifelong guilt on you (Romans 8:1). He gives us hope because with each new day, God charges Himself with our care (Lam. 3:23).

To those hurt by infidelity, for the Lord's sake and yours: Forgive – ask God for strength. Stop punishing people and move on in your life. In the end, your greatest regret could be that you held the whip so long and used it so frequently.

Final Thoughts:

Paul said it best (1 Cor. 10:12) “So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!” If you already have, let the church help you; but you must be committed to come clean. If you were hurt by someone else's fall, we are also here to help. If you haven't been there yet, “May God Himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The One who calls you is faithful and He will do it” (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)

GCF Counseling Center Contact Info

(due to practical constraints, priority is GCF members/regular attenders):

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