

## The Seventh Commandment

**Read:** Exodus 20:14

**Main idea:** God has commanded us to be faithful to His design for sex and marriage and has chosen to use that relationship as an example of His faithfulness to His people.

**Key Verses:** “You shall not commit adultery” (20:14 ESV)

### Key Principles:

- In order to fully understand why certain kinds of sexual relationships are sinful you must first understand God’s standard and purpose for sex and marriage.
- Obeying this commandment is about being faithful to God and your spouse just as God is always faithful to His people.
- God designed sex to be between one man and one woman in a lifelong, covenant relationship of marriage.
- The New Testament word for sexual immorality refers to any sex outside of marriage between a man and a woman.
- God designed sex for marriage because it is the complete fusion of two people into an exclusive relationship where there is unconditional acceptance.
- Sexual desire left unchecked consumes your heart to the point that it becomes your god.
- No matter how many times you have sinned in this area, God’s grace calls you back to Him (1 Commandment) for forgiveness, fulfillment and an opportunity to be faithful.

### Discussion:

1. Why do you think so many people struggle with sexual sin? Why is it hard for our society to accept God’s design for marriage between a man and a woman for life?
2. How much do societal norms for sex and marriage affect the way you believe and respond to God’s design? Think about TV, movies, books, magazines, etc.
3. Are you aware of your weaknesses in this area? Are you mostly tempted physically or emotionally? Internally or externally? How can you find help and accountability?
4. How would you respond to someone who says that “they just follow their heart when it comes to sex?” What about, “If two consenting adults love each other, then who are we to tell them they shouldn’t have sex?”
5. When you, as a follower of Christ, realize that you have fallen short of God’s design how should you respond? Where does the strength to overcome your sinful sexual desires come from? Read John 8:10-11.

### Prayer:

- Pray that we would be faithful to God and His design for sex and marriage.
- Pray:
  - That we would not follow our heart or desires, but that we would follow Jesus.
  - That God would provide people that we trust to hold us accountable to God’s design.
  - That we would rest in God’s grace for forgiveness and offer that message of hope to others who struggle with this sin.

## **VII: The Sanctity of Faithfulness**

Exodus 20:14

**Exodus 20:14** - *You shall not commit adultery.*

### **I. Why is faithfulness important?**

1. God is faithful to His people. 2 Timothy 2:13
2. God's people must be faithful to Him. Hebrews 10:23
3. God's people should be faithful to one another. Eph 5:22-33

### **II. What sins are prohibited?**

1. Do not commit adultery. Hebrews 13:4
2. Do not commit any sexual sin. 1 Cor 6:9
3. Do not have unclean thoughts. Matthew 5:27-28

### **III. What duties are required?**

1. Refrain from immoral sexual activity. 1 Cor 6:18
2. Avoid sexually immoral people. 1 Cor 5:9-11
3. Practice modesty. 1 Cor 6:19-20

NEXT WEEK:

## **VIII: The Sanctity of Property**

Exodus 20:15