

“The Marriage Protection Commandment”
The Ten Commandments — Part 7
Exodus 20:14

"You shall not commit adultery."
Exodus 20:14

The primary purpose of the 7th Commandment is the protection of marriage.

Definition: Adultery—voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and a person who is not his or her spouse. Adultery is different from fornication in that adultery establishes a second bond while one is still bonded to another person. Fornication is the sexual use of another person for personal gratification. Both adultery and fornication are condemned in the Bible.

But a man who commits adultery lacks judgment; whoever does so destroys himself.
Proverbs 6:32

For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man 'unclean'; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him 'unclean.'
Matthew 15:19-20

Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.
Hebrews 13:4

Recognize there are 3 kinds of adultery:

- **Physical adultery**—voluntary sexual involvement between a married person and someone other than your spouse.
- **Mental adultery**—doesn't involve physical adultery, but rather takes place in the mind.

“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.”
Matthew 5:27-28

***Make no mistake, the
battle always begins in the mind!***

We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.
2 Corinthians 10:5

If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

Matthew 5:29-30

- **Emotional adultery**—emotional adultery develops when the emotional connection we once enjoyed with our spouse breaks down and we find another person with whom we begin to share our deepest thoughts and feelings. When you are sharing things with another that you should only be sharing with your spouse, that is emotional adultery.

Building Strong the Marriage Bond:

- **God wants an exclusive relationship with you.**

...“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”
Matthew 22:37

- **Marriage is a picture of the relationship between Christ and His Church.**

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.
Ephesians 5:31-32

- **Covenantal Relationships**

"Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."
Matthew 19:4-6

Another thing you do: You flood the Lord's altar with tears. You weep and wail because he no longer pays attention to your offerings or accepts them with pleasure from your hands. You ask, "Why?" It is because the Lord is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant. Has not [the Lord] made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because he was seeking godly offspring. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.
Malachi 2:13-15

- **The example of Joseph**

“No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?”
Genesis 39:9

Building an adultery-free life:

- 1. Build your relationship with God.**

Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. But

grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ....

2 Peter 3:17-18

2. Build personal purity into every area of your life.

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. Put away perversity from your mouth; keep corrupt talk far from your lips. Let your eyes look straight ahead, fix your gaze directly before you. Make level paths for your feet and take only ways that are firm. Do not swerve to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.

Proverbs 4:23-27

3. Nurture and guard your marriage.

Live happily with the woman you love through the fleeting days of life, for the wife God gives you is your best reward down here for all your earthly toil.

Ecclesiastes 9:9 (TLB)

- Be intentional about communicating openly.
- Be intentional about servicing one another.
- Be intentional about being accountable to one another.

Application: Always remember there is forgiveness for sin!

..."If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone..."

John 8:7