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Teaching Notes

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The Seventh Commandment: You Shall Not Commit Adultery

Exodus 20:12

Exodus 20:1-17 And God spoke all these words:

2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

3 "You shall have no other gods before me.

4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.

5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,

6 but showing love to a thousand *generations* of those who love me and keep my commandments.

7 "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

8 "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates.

11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

12 "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

13 "You shall not murder.

14 "You shall not commit adultery.

15 "You shall not steal.

16 "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

17 "You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

I. What Is Commanded

vs. 14 "You shall not commit adultery.

A. The Meaning of the Word Itself

Ed Young: *Fornication* is sexual intercourse between two unmarried persons. *Adultery* is sexual intercourse between a married man and a woman who is not his wife, or a married woman with a man who is not her husband.

Now, an *affair* is something different. An affair is an extramarital relationship involving sexual lovemaking and a deep feeling of love. Fornication is wrong, and adultery is wrong. But an affair is unique-it involves adultery and a deep feeling of love. Adultery can mark the beginnings of an affair, and it can certainly end a marriage. But it is the affair, the extramarital *love* relationship, that is doing most of the damage to marriages. Extramarital affairs are devastating marriages today.

1. Context: The Sanctity of Marriage
2. Assumption: God restricts sexual expression to the covenant relationship of marriage
3. What is commanded: You shall not have sexual relations with anyone but your spouse (wife or husband)

B. The Sanctity of Marriage

Genesis 2:18-25 *The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." 19 Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. 23 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." 24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. 25 The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.*

1. Key concepts:
 - a. man and his wife (one man, one woman)
 - b. united by God
 - c. one flesh
 - d. commitment
2. Immediate purpose: fulfillment of the “cultural commission”

Genesis 1:26-28 *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of*

God he created him; male and female he created them. 28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Malachi 2:15 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.

3. Ultimate purpose: birth of the godly race of elect
 - a. elect chosen before the foundation of the world
 - b. BUT they don't exist yet
 - c. God-ordained means for bringing them into the world physically
4. Spiritual purpose: a picture of Christ and the church

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

Throughout the Bible, the intimate covenant relationship God has with His people is best pictured by the human relationship of marriage:

Jeremiah 2:2-3 "Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem: "'I remember the devotion of your youth, how as a bride you loved me and followed me through the desert, through a land not sown. 3 Israel was holy to the LORD, the firstfruits of his harvest; all who devoured her were held guilty, and disaster overtook them," declares the LORD.

Isaiah 62:5 As a young man marries a maiden, so will your sons marry you; as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.

II. Attacks on Marriage

A. Satan Takes Adam's Place... and God's

1. The serpent goes directly to the wife to tempt her
2. He becomes the leader in the relationship rather than Adam
3. She then takes Adam's rightful place and leads him

B. Covenant Relations Performed

ESV Genesis 4:1 *Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD."*

C. The Attack of Bigamy

Genesis 4:19 *And Lamech took two wives. The name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah.*

1. Lamech the son of apostate murderer Cain
2. Little respect for the ways of the Lord
3. The first to take a second wife... thus attacking the one-flesh union of one man, one woman

D. The Attack of Polygamy

Genesis 6:1-5 *When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, 2 the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. 3 Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years." 4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown. 5 The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

1. By the time of Noah, the practice of bigamy expanded to the role of the tyrant-king taking a harem
2. "Sons of God" passage various interpretations... angels taking on a human body and having relations with beautiful women
3. Other interpretation: the "sons of God" were earthly tyrant-kings who married anyone they wanted anytime they wanted
4. This is the origin of the harem... the collection of women as mere sexual playthings who lived to satisfy the desires of the mighty king

Note: we will see this attitude again with the problem of lust... the eye roams to satisfy itself with any woman the man chooses

E. The Attack of Homosexuality

Genesis 19:4-7 *But before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both young and old, all the people to the last man, surrounded the house. 5 And they called to Lot, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us, that we may know them." 6 Lot went out to the men at the entrance, shut the door after him, 7 and said, "I beg you, my brothers, do not act so wickedly.*

Leviticus 18:22 *"Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable.*

Leviticus 20:13 *"If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.*

F. The Attack of Pre-Marital Sex and/or Rape

Genesis 34:1-3 *Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to see the women of the land. 2 And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, saw her, he seized her and lay with her and humiliated her. 3 And his soul was drawn to Dinah the daughter of Jacob. He loved the young woman and spoke tenderly to her.*

Deuteronomy 22:13-21 [Rules for dealing with a young woman who has been sexually active while still in her father's house]

G. The Attack of Prostitution

Genesis 34:31 *But they said, "Should he treat our sister like a prostitute?"*

Genesis 38:13-16 *Judah and Tamar... "What will you give me that you may come in to me?"*

Leviticus 19:29 *"Do not profane your daughter by making her a prostitute, lest the land fall into prostitution and the land become full of depravity.*

H. The Attack of Adultery

Deuteronomy 22:22 *"If a man is found lying with the wife of another man, both of them shall die, the man who lay with the woman, and the woman. So you shall purge the evil from Israel.*

I. The Attack of Divorce

Malachi 2:14-16 *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. 15 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. 16 "I hate divorce," says the LORD God of Israel, "and I hate a man's covering himself with violence as well as with his garment," says the LORD Almighty. So guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith.*

Matthew 19:3-9

3 Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to **divorce** his wife for any and every reason?"

4 "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,'

5 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'?"

6 So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

7 "Why then," they asked, "did Moses command that a man give his wife a certificate of **divorce** and send her away?"

8 Jesus replied, "Moses permitted you to **divorce** your wives because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning.

9 I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery."

J. The Attack of Fornication (Pre-Marital Sex)

Deuteronomy 22:13-21 [Rules for dealing with a young woman who has been sexually active while still in her father's house]

K. The Attack of Lust

Matthew 5:27-30 "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 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. 30 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.

2 Peter 2:14 With eyes full of adultery, they never stop sinning; they seduce the unstable; they are experts in greed-- an accursed brood!

III. Grave Warnings Against Adultery

A. Proverbs 5-7

Proverbs 5 My son, pay attention to my wisdom, listen well to my words of insight,
 2 that you may maintain discretion and your lips may preserve knowledge.
 3 For the lips of an **adulteress** drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil;
 4 but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword.
 5 Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave.
 6 She gives no thought to the way of life; her paths are crooked, but she knows it not.
 7 Now then, my sons, listen to me; do not turn aside from what I say.
 8 Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house,
 9 lest you give your best strength to others and your years to one who is cruel,

- 10 lest strangers feast on your wealth and your toil enrich another man's house.
 11 At the end of your life you will groan, when your flesh and body are spent.
 12 You will say, "How I hated discipline! How my heart spurned correction!
 13 I would not obey my teachers or listen to my instructors.
 14 I have come to the brink of utter ruin in the midst of the whole assembly."
 15 Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well.
 16 Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares?
 17 Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers.
 18 May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth.
 19 A loving doe, a graceful deer-- may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love.
 20 Why be captivated, my son, by an **adulteress**? Why embrace the bosom of another man's wife?
 21 For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all his paths.
 22 The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of his sin hold him fast.
 23 He will die for lack of discipline, led astray by his own great folly.

Proverbs 6:27-35 Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned? 28 Can a man walk on hot coals without his feet being scorched? 29 So is he who sleeps with another man's wife; no one who touches her will go unpunished. 30 Men do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy his hunger when he is starving. 31 Yet if he is caught, he must pay sevenfold, though it costs him all the wealth of his house. 32 But a man who commits adultery lacks judgment; whoever does so destroys himself. 33 Blows and disgrace are his lot, and his shame will never be wiped away; 34 for jealousy arouses a husband's fury, and he will show no mercy when he takes revenge. 35 He will not accept any compensation; he will refuse the bribe, however great it is.

Proverbs 7:6-27

- 6 At the window of my house I looked out through the lattice.
 7 I saw among the simple, I noticed among the young men, a youth who lacked judgment.
 8 He was going down the street near her corner, walking along in the direction of her house
 9 at twilight, as the day was fading, as the dark of night set in.
 10 Then out came a woman to meet him, dressed like a prostitute and with crafty intent.
 11 (She is loud and defiant, her feet never stay at home;
 12 now in the street, now in the squares, at every corner she lurks.)
 13 She took hold of him and kissed him and with a brazen face she said:
 14 "I have fellowship offerings at home; today I fulfilled my vows.
 15 So I came out to meet you; I looked for you and have found you!
 16 I have covered my bed with colored linens from Egypt.
 17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes and cinnamon.
 18 Come, let's drink deep of love till morning; let's enjoy ourselves with love!
 19 My husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey.
 20 He took his purse filled with money and will not be home till full moon."
 21 With persuasive words she led him astray; she seduced him with her smooth talk.
 22 All at once he followed her like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer stepping into a noose
 23 till an arrow pierces his liver, like a bird darting into a snare, little knowing it will cost him his life.

24 Now then, my sons, listen to me; pay attention to what I say.
 25 Do not let your heart turn to her ways or stray into her paths.
 26 Many are the victims she has brought down; her slain are a mighty throng.
 27 Her house is a highway to the grave, leading down to the chambers of death.

B. Job

Job 31:1 "I made a **covenant** with my **eyes** not to look lustfully at a girl.
 2 For what is man's lot from God above, his heritage from the Almighty on high?
 3 Is it not ruin for the wicked, disaster for those who do wrong?
 4 Does he not see my ways and count my every step?
 5 "If I have walked in falsehood or my foot has hurried after deceit--
 6 let God weigh me in honest scales and he will know that I am blameless--
 7 if my steps have turned from the path, if my heart has been led by my eyes, or if my hands have been defiled,
 8 then may others eat what I have sown, and may my crops be uprooted.
 9 "If my heart has been enticed by a woman, or if I have lurked at my neighbor's door,
 10 then may my wife grind another man's grain, and may other men sleep with her.
 11 For that would have been shameful, a sin to be judged.
 12 It is a fire that burns to Destruction; it would have uprooted my harvest.

C. The Case of King David

D. Revelation

Revelation 2:20-23 Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. 21 I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. 22 So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. 23 I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.

IV. Living a Life of Purity in an Age of Adultery

A. The Danger of Our Adulterous Age

1 John 2:15-17 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For everything in the world-- the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes

and the boasting of what he has and does-- comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

B. Warning to Men: O Be Careful Little Eyes What You See

Illus. John Bunyan's *Holy War*: pictures a human soul like a walled city... the city of Mansoul, with various entrance gates... the most vulnerable for a man is the "eye-gate"

1. Grave problems of pornography... an attack on the "Eye-gate"
2. Internet pornography a serious problem: ease and supposed freedom from shame
3. Constant attack from surrounding culture: television images, movie images, magazine images
4. Attack from feminine styles of clothing... ever more revealing and daring
5. Remember Jesus' strong advice:

Matthew 5:27-30 "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' 28 But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 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. 30 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.

6. Also Job's advice

Job 31:1 "I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl.

Illus. Ten Commandments for Staff Purity

C. Warning to Women: O Be Careful Little Heart What You Want

1. Men drawn in by lust and a craving for sensual pleasure
2. Women drawn in by yearning for intimacy and relationship
3. Her heart enticed by a caring man, a listening ear

D. Warning to the Compassionate: Watch Out for the Hurting Friend

E. The Best Remedy: A Healthy Marriage

Proverbs 5:16-20

16 Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares?

17 Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers.

18 May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth.

19 A loving doe, a graceful deer-- may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love.

20 Why be captivated, my son, by an **adulteress**? Why embrace the bosom of another man's wife?

V. Marriage Perfected

A. Final Vision of Marriage: Perfect Unity Between Christ and the Church

Revelation 21:1-5

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.

2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a **bride** beautifully dressed for her husband.

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

5 He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."