

CONNECT

bella vista baptist church

Sunday, October 19, 2025



ADULTERY

commandment seven

Exodus 20:14; Matthew 5:27-30

"You shall not commit adultery."

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. 30And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell."

The BIG Idea

Adultery is a heart issue.

Introduction

The Seventh Commandment prohibiting adultery stems from a Genesis 2 understanding of what Biblical marriage is. Marriage was God's idea. It was instituted as a complementary relationship between a male and a female, a covenant union that would provide the context for child rearing and as the basic building block of society. And, as the Apostle Paul noted in Ephesians 5:22-33, marriage would serve as a paradigm of Christ and His church.

The very essence of what marriage is demands its vows be taken to heart.

When Jesus applies the seventh commandment in Matthew 5:27-30, He applies it to the heart. To look at someone other than your spouse with lustful intent, He taught us, is to commit adultery in the heart. Jesus' application goes to the heart of pornography in our modern digital age. A 2024 Barna study found 78% of men (including 75% of Christian men) consume pornography to some extent. Let us take the seventh commandment and Jesus' application of it seriously lest we suffer the consequences of our own wayward passions.

Verses for Meditation

Genesis 2:4-25

Ephesians 5:22-33

Matthew 5:27-30

1 Corinthians 6:18

Questions for Reflection

How has this Sunday's consideration of the Seventh Commandment affected how you think about marriage?

What kind of damage have you seen infidelity cause in marriages? How has it caused you to rethink your marriage?

Reflecting of the Genesis passage:

Why is marriage a holy institution?

In what ways did the creation of Eve complement Adam? (The principle of complementarity.)

Why is the sexual union between husband and wife an integral bonding component of marriage?

Reflecting on the Ephesians passage, how is marriage a symbol of Christ and church?

Reflecting on Matthew 5:27-30:

What is the difference between love and the lustful desire of the eyes?

What is the danger of thinking that "It won't hurt to look"?

To what extent have we believed the cultural lie that lust is something to be tamed rather than killed?

How can we deal with sexual temptations?

Can the sexually defiled be restored to spiritual purity? How?

Jesus Loves Me

Anna Bartlett Warner (1860)

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong; they are weak but he is strong.

Jesus loves me! He will stay close beside me all the way;
Thou hast bled and died for me, I will hence-forth live for thee.

Chorus

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.