

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

“The Bride of Christ”

Ex 20:14 “You shall not commit adultery.” (NIV)

Two simple Hebrew words, lo'tin'app, compose the seventh commandment. In two words, God prohibits the defilement of the marriage covenant. It is simple and straightforward, holding its moral ground from the first marriage ever.

Gen 2:18, 21-25

18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

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. (NIV)

With Man and Woman, we gave the founding of the marriage covenant. God's plan of one man, one woman is clearly shown in the narrative. All other forms of relationship at this level are shown to be perversions of God's original plan. Plural wives, homosexuality and bestiality are denied as options in the narrative. Adultery is shown as unlawful for "a man . . . shall cleave unto his wife and they shall be one flesh." Not only was the unlawfulness of adultery expressed by Adam, but the situation itself showed that it wasn't even an option. The woman was the only help meet for Adam.

From this heritage, the patriarchs and the cultures that surround them understood the sanctity of marriage.

Gen 20:1-7

1 Now Abraham moved on from there into the region of the Negev and lived between Kadesh and Shur. For a while he stayed in Gerar,

2 and there Abraham said of his wife Sarah, "She is my sister." Then Abimelech king of Gerar sent for Sarah and took her.

3 But God came to Abimelech in a dream one night and said to him, "You are as good as dead because of the woman you have taken; she is a married woman."

4 Now Abimelech had not gone near her, so he said, "Lord, will you destroy an innocent nation?"

5 Did he not say to me, 'She is my sister,' and didn't she also say, 'He is my brother'? I have done this with a clear conscience and clean hands."

6 Then God said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know you did this with a clear conscience, and so I have kept you from sinning against me. That is why I did not let you touch her.

7 Now return the man's wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not return her, you may be sure that you and all yours will die." (NIV)

As with all other laws, committing adultery is a death sentence.

Lev 20:10

"If a man commits adultery with another man's wife — with the wife of his neighbor — both the adulterer and the adulteress must be put to death. (NIV)

I have two purposes in presenting this teaching. One is to help us see the practicality of chastity, physical purity. The other is to understand the need and profitability of consecration, spiritual purity.

1 Thess 4:3-8

3 It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality;
4 that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable,
5 not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God;
6 and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you.
7 For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.
8 Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit. (NIV)

On the physical side, the seventh commandment prohibits us from behaving in a married way toward anyone who is not our spouse. This would include the whole gambit of crush, infatuation, boyfriend/girlfriend, making out, fornication, and adultery. How do we keep ourselves pure? It is matter of the heart.

Matt 15:17-20

17 "Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body?
18 But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.'
19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.
20 These are what make a man 'unclean'; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him 'unclean.'" (NIV)

It is precisely because evil deeds follow evil thoughts that we are told to keep our hearts with all diligence. One means by which our minds are led astray is through the eyes.

Num 15:39

You will have these tassels to look at and so you will remember all the commands of the LORD, that you may obey them and not prostitute yourselves by going after the lusts of your own hearts and eyes. (NIV)

Prov 6:20-29 (NIV)

- 20 My son, keep your father's commands and do not forsake your mother's teaching.
21 Bind them upon your heart forever; fasten them around your neck.
22 When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you.
23 For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life,
24 keeping you from the immoral woman, from the smooth tongue of the wayward wife.
25 Do not lust in your heart after her beauty or let her captivate you with her eyes,
26 for the prostitute reduces you to a loaf of bread, and the adulteress preys upon your very life.
27 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.

Ezek 6:8-10

- 8 "But I will spare some, for some of you will escape the sword when you are scattered among the lands and nations.
9 Then in the nations where they have been carried captive, those who escape will remember me—how I have been grieved by their adulterous hearts, which have turned away from me, and by their eyes, which have lusted after their idols. They will loathe themselves for the evil they have done and for all their detestable practices.
10 And they will know that I am the LORD; I did not threaten in vain to bring this calamity on them. (NIV)

In contrast, Job made a covenant with his eyes.

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

Matt 5:27-30

- 27 "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. (NIV)

We need to not look in lust and thus avoid being led away in lust. How are children to be protected from the enticement of immorality?

Prov 23:26-27

- 26 My son, give me your heart and let your eyes keep to my ways,
27 for a prostitute is a deep pit and a wayward wife is a narrow well. (NIV)

The time of a child's separation from his parents should be when he marries. Until that time, those intimate affections should go to his parents. There should be a trust in the relationship that would allow the child to wait on parental approval.

Gen 24:1-7 (NIV)

- 1 Abraham was now old and well advanced in years, and the LORD had blessed him in every way.
- 2 He said to the chief servant in his household, the one in charge of all that he had, "Put your hand under my thigh.
- 3 I want you to swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you will not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I am living,
- 4 but will go to my country and my own relatives and get a wife for my son Isaac."
- 5 The servant asked him, "What if the woman is unwilling to come back with me to this land? Shall I then take your son back to the country you came from?"
- 6 "Make sure that you do not take my son back there," Abraham said.
- 7 "The LORD, the God of heaven, who brought me out of my father's household and my native land and who spoke to me and promised me on oath, saying, 'To your offspring I will give this land' — he will send his angel before you so that you can get a wife for my son from there.

Gen 24:10-20

- 10 Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and left, taking with him all kinds of good things from his master. He set out for Aram Naharaim and made his way to the town of Nahor.
- 11 He had the camels kneel down near the well outside the town; it was toward evening, the time the women go out to draw water.
- 12 Then he prayed, "O LORD, God of my master Abraham, give me success today, and show kindness to my master Abraham.
- 13 See, I am standing beside this spring, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water.
- 14 May it be that when I say to a girl, 'Please let down your jar that I may have a drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I'll water your camels too' — let her be the one you have chosen for your servant Isaac. By this I will know that you have shown kindness to my master."
- 15 Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came out with her jar on her shoulder. She was the daughter of Bethuel son of Milcah, who was the wife of Abraham's brother Nahor.
- 16 The girl was very beautiful, a virgin; no man had ever lain with her. She went down to the spring, filled her jar and came up again.
- 17 The servant hurried to meet her and said, "Please give me a little water from your jar."
- 18 "Drink, my lord," she said, and quickly lowered the jar to her hands and gave him a drink.
- 19 After she had given him a drink, she said, "I'll draw water for your camels too, until they have finished drinking."
- 20 So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough, ran back to the well to draw more water, and drew enough for all his camels. (NIV)

Gen 24:62-67

- 62 Now Isaac had come from Beer Lahai Roi, for he was living in the Negev.

- 63 He went out to the field one evening to meditate, and as he looked up, he saw camels approaching.
- 64 Rebekah also looked up and saw Isaac. She got down from her camel
- 65 and asked the servant, "Who is that man in the field coming to meet us?" "He is my master," the servant answered. So she took her veil and covered herself.
- 66 Then the servant told Isaac all he had done.
- 67 Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah, and he married Rebekah. So she became his wife, and he loved her; and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death. (NIV)

In this beautiful picture, Abraham is Father God, sending out his servant (the prophets) with the Holy Spirit (his angel) to get a bride (the church) for Isaac (the Son). Ultimately, marriage is about Christ and his church.

Eph 5:22-32

- 22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.
- 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.
- 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.
- 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her
- 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,
- 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.
- 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.
- 29 After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-
- 30 for we are members of his body.
- 31 "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. (NIV)

As our romantic hearts are guarded by our parents until we find our mates, so also our spiritual hearts. Jesus left the Father to receive His bride. Israel was married to God, but He gave them a bill of divorcement (Jer. 3:8). In contrast, the church is espoused to Christ.

2 Cor 11:2-3

- 2 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.
- 3 But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. (NIV)

In this life, we are in the engagement period with Christ. To make it to the bridal chamber, we have to remain pure.

Matt 22:2-14

- 2 "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son.
3 He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.
4 "Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.'
5 "But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business.
6 The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them.
7 The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.
8 "Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come.
9 Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.'
10 So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.
11 "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes.
12 'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless.
13 "Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie his hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'
14 "For many are invited, but few are chosen." (NIV)

The way we remain pure, both physically and spiritually, is to flee unrighteousness and pursue his righteousness. He always makes a way of escape.

Gen 39:7-12

- 7 and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"
8 But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care.
9 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?"
10 And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.
11 One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside.
12 She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house. (NIV)

You see, even if it means going into a physical (or emotional) confinement for a time, God always makes a way of escape.

1 Cor 10:8-14

- 8 We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died.
9 We should not test the Lord, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes.

- 10 And do not grumble, as some of them did-and were killed by the destroying angel.
11 These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.
12 So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!
13 No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.
14 Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry. (NIV)

Being invited to the wedding supper is a matter of reward or a merit inheritance. This type of inheritance can be lost.

1 Cor 6:9-10

- 9 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders
10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. (NIV)

Eph 5:3-6

- 3 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.
4 Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.
5 For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person-such a man is an idolater-has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.
6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. (NIV)

This is why the book of Revelation says what it says.

Rev 19:7-9

- 7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.
8 Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)
9 Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God." (NIV)

The bride has made herself ready! But living chaste and consecrated is not enough. We have a mandate to invite others to the party.

Rev 22:17

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. (NIV)