

filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting [coarse joking], which are not convenient [fitting at all]: but rather, [let there be] giving of thanks [before God always, yes, in the way also of holy living!]

God's guidelines for us in reference to the seventh commandment is that we can't allow ourselves the least corruption or deviance from His perfect standard or we will soon descend down a slippery slope of excuses and rationalizations resulting in more and more transgressions of the seventh commandment if not in deed and word, still in our thoughts. Sin indulged in and permitted regarding the seventh commandment has a way of staying with us, even when we want to forget it altogether. Play with adultery in any form and it will sap you and trap you before you know it. God's guideline is to stay away from it altogether in any way it might come to you or be available to you. Here let me ask you now, "Are you taking seriously God's guidelines in this regard, not letting any sexual immorality in thought word or deed be even once permitted in your life?"

It is a sad commentary when confessing Christians live carelessly in reference to the seventh commandment and God's guidelines concerning it. Such reflects a lack of spiritual awareness not only of the holiness of God but also of the natural depravity of man. It shows too ignorance of God's real intention with the salvation of sinners in and through Christ Jesus. God's purpose with His saving work is not only to forgive us our sin and make a place for us in heaven, but also more and more to cleanse us from sin altogether, and to have us increasingly truly reflect Him in every part of our life.

This also brings me now to our fourth and last point about God's seventh commandment. Not only does it demonstrate God's astonishing graciousness, and His amazing goodness, and His absolute guidelines, but notice yet it proves His all-time goal in our lives. God Triune's goal in His people's lives is that we be completely pure in body and soul reflecting His image and His perfect love before God and one another. Do you keep this goal always before you? John writes in I John 3:3, that as many as have the true hope of heavenly glory, by grace through faith in Jesus the Saviour, they show that in seeking to purify themselves even as He, their God and Saviour, is pure. Is this what marks your life by God's grace, so that you too, looking to Jesus, practice and promote holy and happy obedience also to God's seventh commandment? How desperately that is needed in our times and for the generations following. "*Thou shalt not commit adultery*". God means this in 2006 still, and you are listening aren't you? Amen.

Hans Overduin, Radio Pastor

May 7, 2006

Publication No.257

BANNER OF TRUTH RADIO BROADCAST

Radio Ministry of the FREE REFORMED CHURCHES of North America

Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee that it may be displayed because of the truth. (Psalm 60:4)



THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

The seventh commandment is found in Exodus 20:14. "*Thou shalt not commit adultery.*" What does this mean?

Perhaps you heard the story before about a young boy who, after hearing the Ten Commandments read and briefly spoken about at church, asked his father, "Daddy, what does it mean when it says, 'Thou shalt not commit agriculture'?" There was hardly a beat between the question and the father's reply: "Son, that just means that you're not supposed to plow the other man's field". That was surely a fitting answer, and one that was satisfactory to both of them at that time. Oh, that all would so understand and teach the seventh commandment of God!

In studying this commandment, let us just think about these four points - God's graciousness, God's goodness, God's guideline, and God's goal with this holy seventh commandment.

I begin with God's graciousness. What a stream, what a river, what an ocean of foul transgression prevails from day to day before the one holy true God Triune, just in reference to sin against the seventh commandment, "You shall not commit adultery". How much longer God will tolerate the open, vile, rebellious, repeated, wicked rejection and disobedience of His holy seventh commandment? Couples living together in same sex relationships, spouse swapping, divorce, remarriage, sexual relations before marriage, and adulterous sexual relations with anyone other than your spouse is all just so wrong in God's holy sight. How many too think nothing of constantly reading about such and/or viewing all such on television or computer screen at home or at the theatre, filling their minds with godless immoral pictures and behavior. Our age is a time of rampant pornography and sexual perversion like no other age before, and never has sexual sin been so grossly promoted and permitted as in our multi media global village world of today.

In so many ways people openly scoff at the truth that from the beginning with the creation of Adam and Eve, God has ordained and arranged marriage as between one man and one woman for life. If you add it all up, you know it is true how this seventh commandment demonstrates the graciousness of God in that this whole world is not right now even totally wiped out once and for all! For all the filth in it, what keeps God from burning it all up with a great hot fire even this moment?

Do you see God's graciousness in the sense of His longsuffering and patience over against just the disobedience of the seventh commandment? How amazing it is truly! God is giving time for man to repent and turn from their sins to Him. But one day the Bible warns God's patience will run out and He will say, 'enough is enough!' No one can mock God and His laws without just and serious consequences, that is for certain! How urgent that people turn to Him, turning away from sin and being sorry and living in repentance before Him and His holy law. This is the call of the gospel, of God Himself, for all of us, to repent today, also in reference to all our sins over against the seventh commandment.

Saying that brings me to another way in which we should see God's unspeakable graciousness to the seventh commandment in and through Christ Jesus. Here I think now about the power of Jesus' once for all sacrifice to wash away and cleanse us from all sin, also against the seventh commandment. In Proverbs 20:9 we read the question, "*Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?*" But this is the gospel, the blood of Christ, applied to the heart by way of the Spirit through faith and repentance in Jesus, can and does wash away all our sins! There is no uncleanness of mankind, of you and me, that Christ the Saviour cannot and will not forgive and cleanse us from, even for as many as repent and believe on Him.

Wonderfully then the Bible also tells of many who lived in sexual sins who were renewed and redeemed by Him. Think of Samson, David, Solomon, Tamar, Rahab, Mary Magdalene and others mentioned in God's Word. Listen here also to I Corinthians 6:9 and following where Paul mentions some of those who surely will not enter the kingdom of heaven, living in certain sins, and how this message needs to be proclaimed and heard in our day. "*Be not deceived,*" Paul says in that passage, "*neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, [meaning homosexuals], nor abusers of themselves with mankind [which refers to those practicing gross sexual perversions], nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, [etc.]...shall inherit the kingdom of God*"...and then he says, "*And such were some of you: [speaking of Corinthian Christians] but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*" There is forgiveness and deliverance from sin through our Lord Jesus Christ, also all the sins we commit against the seventh commandment.

The graciousness of God the Saviour in and with this - isn't it incredible? The Holy One Who gives the law, "*Thou shalt not commit adultery*" is the One Who also declares Himself as the God of salvation even over against all the transgressions also of this one holy law of God. Oh, that God so loved this world that He would send His dear Son, infinitely pure and holy, to live in it and to bring about salvation for sinners such as you and me, and that Jesus was willing to come to be Saviour and that with Him, through His shed blood on sinners' behalf, is a redemption full and free. What a

mercy, what graciousness on His part! The seventh commandment tells of God's graciousness towards us in and through Jesus Christ, the Saviour of sinners. Does this graciousness of His not melt your heart too in humble repentance and devotion to God also in reference now just to the seventh commandment?

But let us move on and learn next of God's goodness in reference to the seventh commandment. Surely it is God's goodness that He says, "*Thou shalt not commit adultery*" for His law is good, and God knows the more we live by it the better it is for each of us and all of us. The devil and this world want to say and promote that God's laws are stifling and oppressive but any reasonable person can know and prove God's laws are only good and for our wellbeing really. The world in defiance of God's seventh commandment promotes not love but lust, not care but coldness, not stability but instability, not real contentment but endless discontentment. What jealousies and rage and murders result also from transgression of the seventh commandment. Defying God's law brings a lot of loss and ruin which shows up miserably in this life already.

But see the goodness of God as He is out upholding His law also for our best interests!. Think of the emotional hurt, the physical diseases, the financial burdens and the general instability that come with transgression of the seventh commandment. Proverbs 13:15 reads, "*Good understanding gives favour: but the way of transgressors is hard*". Think of the hurt and wounds against the rising generation when people indulge in adultery of whatever kind. Because God cares for people like us, in His goodness and mercy to us, He calls out time and again, "*Flee fornication, and do not commit adultery, if you know what is good for you*". The devil who is out for our total and eternal destruction beginning already in this life, is constantly out to tempt people with transgression of the seventh commandment holding up just the very short-lived immediate gratification of lust, but not showing and hiding from view the ongoing curse and trial of life that come as consequences of sin, especially also sin against the seventh commandment. The book of Proverbs especially in chapter 5, 6, and 7, give earnest warnings against adultery of any kind, and it is given in all love, from father to son. Let me urge the reading of that inspired book of God's Word...even a chapter each day of the month, and with the Holy Spirit's blessing, you will realize more the evil and devastating results of sin against the seventh commandment.

We have noted so far how the seventh commandment of God brings out God's graciousness towards us, and His goodness towards us, and notice, thirdly, what guidelines for us God gives with it. God calls for radical and total separation from the sin of adultery and all forms of uncleanness. His Word and life experience teaches us too this is not something we can ever afford to compromise on in any way at all. Listen to what Paul says, *But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becomes [as is fitting of] saints, [God's people]. Neither*