## "O How Love I Thy Law!" The Seventh Commandment "Flee Fornication" Exodus 20:14

## **Introduction:**

- 1. In Exodus 20:14:
  - We Find The Seventh Commandment:
    - Of The Moral Law Of God:
      - Which Says "Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery!"
- 2. Now As We Learned:
  - Last Sunday Night:
    - The Underlying Truth And Doctrine About God:
      - That Provides The Foundation To This Commandment Is:
        - God's Great Faithfulness!
  - His Faithfulness:
    - To His Original Creation And Design:
      - Of Marriage!
    - But Also:
      - His Faithfulness:
        - To His Own Care, Commitment, And Charge:
          - Within His Own Triune Nature As God:
            - As Well As For His People!
- 3. But As We See From This Commandment:
  - We, As A Whole, Have Not Treated:
    - God's Institution Of Marriage:
      - In The Same Way!
        - In Many Ways & At Many Times:
          - We Have Been Unfaithful:
            - Where God Has Called Us To Be Faithful!

- And So:
  - This Commandment:
    - Is Also Profitable:
      - For Our Reproof!
        - God Wants It To:
          - Convince Us & To Convict Us Of Our Infidelity Toward Him & Toward Others!
- And Don't We See This:
  - All Around Us Even Today?
- 4. People Are Unfaithful:
  - To God's Creation Of Marriage!
    - What God Designed To Be A Blessing To Mankind:
      - Has Become A Curse!
  - This Happened When:
    - People Began Rejecting Marriage:
      - And Sought To Live As If They Were Married:
        - Even Though They Had Not Yet Committed Themselves To Each Other:
          - Through Marriage!
    - Today The Percentage Of Couples:
      - That Live Together:
        - Before Getting Married:
          - Is Upwards Of 66 Percent!
      - And Many Of Those Couples Are Having Children Outside Of Wedlock:
        - And Without The Commitment And Security That Marriage Was Meant To Provide!
    - Now I've Heard:
      - All Kinds Of Reasons:
        - For This Ranging From:
          - Financial Reasons To Practical Reasons!

- But Even Though This Is Becoming:
  - More & More Common:
    - Even Among Church-Going Young People:
      - It Is Opposed To God's Design For & Blessing Upon Marriage!
- But This Also Happens When:
  - As We've Seen Not Only In Our Country:
    - But All Throughout The World:
      - People Seek To Redefine Marriage:
        - To Whatever Definition:
          - Fits Their Own Lusts And Desires!
  - This Could Mean:
    - A So-Called Marriage:
      - Between People Of The Same Sex:
        - Or Even Marriage:
          - Between More Than One Person At The Same Time!
- But Any Rejection Or Redefinition:
  - *Of* Marriage:
    - Is Unfaithfulness *To* Marriage!
- 5. People Are Also Unfaithful:
  - To The Care & Commitment & Charge:
    - That God Designed:
      - For Marriage!
  - Instead Of:
    - A Relationship:
      - Of Genuine Love, Affection & Care:
        - Seeking After The Best For One's Spouse:
      - It Has Deteriorated Into:
        - A Relationship Of Lust:
          - And Self-Love Instead!

- Instead Of:
  - A Relationship:
    - Of Genuine Commitment & Security:
      - Willing To Stick With Each Other:
        - Through The Ups And Downs Of Life:
      - It Too Has Deteriorated Into:
        - A Relationship Based On The Whims Of A Person's Heart & The Winds Of A Person's Circumstances!
- And Instead Of:
  - A Relationship:
    - Where Each Person Seeks To Fulfil His / Her Role & Charge:
      - To Benefit The Other:
    - It Has Deteriorated As Well Into:
      - A Relationship Of:
        - Selfishness Looking Out For Your Own Interests:
          - Instead Of The Interests Of The Other!

- In All Of These Ways:
  - We Can See That There Is A Lot Of Unfaithfulness:
    - In This World!
- 6. And So When God Says:
  - "Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery" He Is:
    - Seeking To Reprove Us:
      - Of The Rampant Unfaithfulness:
        - All Around Us!
  - Because Marital Infidelity:
    - Toward A Person's Spouse:
      - Is An Illustration Of & Even A Symptom Of:
        - Spiritual Infidelity:
          - And Unfaithfulness To God!

- 7. Now Some Will Say:
  - That This Commandment:
    - Has Nothing To Do With Them:
      - Since They Are Not Married!
        - But By Focusing Our Attention:
          - On The Specific Sin Of Adultery:
            - God Includes Everything Else That Can Lead Up To Adultery!

- This Is Proven:
  - When Jesus In The Sermon On The Mount:
    - After Dealing With:
      - The Heart Of Anger:
        - He Deals With:
          - The Heart Of Lust!
  - In Matthew 5:27-32 "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: / 28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. / 29 And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. / 30 And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. / 31 It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: / 32 But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery!"
    - So According To Jesus:
      - The Sin Of Adultery:
        - Can Take Different Forms!
    - There Is:
      - Physical Adultery:
        - When A Husband Or A Wife:
          - Is Unfaithful To His / Her Spouse!
    - But There Is Also:
      - Mental Adultery:
        - When A Man Or Woman Even:
          - Looks On Someone With Lust In Their Hearts!
    - And This Principle Applies:
      - Not Only To Those Who Are Married:
        - But To Those Who Are Unmarried As Well!
- 8. So Not Only Does God:
  - Condemn The Sin Of Adultery:
    - In The Seventh Commandment:
      - He Also Condemns:
        - All The Different Kinds Of Sin:
          - Known As Fornication:
            - Which Always Leads A Person Away From:
              - God's Original Deign For Marriage!

- And This Is Why:
  - In 1 Corinthians 6:13 The Apostle Paul Wrote:
    - To A Church That Was Surrounded:
      - By Such A Well-Known Immoral Community And Culture:
        - "Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body!"
- So In Order To:
  - Avoid The Sin Of Adultery:
    - We Also Need To:
      - Flee All Forms Of Fornication:
        - And Immoral Thoughts And Acts!
- 9. So In The Time We Have Left:
  - Let's Head Over To 1 Corinthians 6:
    - Where I Would Like To Focus Our Attention:

- On 6:15-20 Where Paul Adds:
  - "What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. / 17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. / 18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. / 19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? / 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's!"
- 10. Before We Go On:
  - We Need To Remember Who Paul Was Writing To!
    - The Corinthian Church Existed Within A Very Ungodly Culture!
      - And Some Of The Issues We Find In The Church Were Issues That Were Very Common In The City & Culture Of Corinth At That Time!
  - For Example:
    - The City Of Corinth Was A Very Immoral Place!
      - IE: Could Have Had The Same Motto As Las Vegas "What Happens In Corinth Stays In Corinth!"
        - And So Corinth Was Known For Its Immorality Even In That Wicked Culture!
    - But Even More Shocking One Of The Primary Religions Of Corinth:
      - Had A Temple To The Goddess Aphrodite, Where Immorality Was Considered An Act Of Worship!
  - Corinth Was A Society Crazed By Immorality & Saturated With It!
    - IE: Does This Sound Anything Like Our Society & Culture Today?
      - Think About Our Entertainment Industry!
      - Think About Our Marketing Industry!
        - Sex Sells! Billboards / Commercials!
      - Think About Even Our Healthcare Industry!
- 11. In This Kind Of Culture:
  - God Tells Us Through Paul: There Needs To Be A Difference!
    - A Difference Between Christians & Non-Christians!
      - A Difference In How We Think / How We Talk / How We Act!
  - And To Help Us Live Faithfully:
    - According To The Gospel:
      - We Need To Remember This:
        - We Belong To The Lord!
- 12. And 1 Corinthians 6:20 Tells Us Specifically:
  - How We Are To Live!
    - "Therefore Glorify God In Your Body, And In Your Spirit, Which Are God's!"
  - And In Order To "Glorify God In Your Body":
    - You Need To Renew Your Mind With 3 Truths:
      - 3 Principles About Your Body!
- \* First Principle In 6:15:
- 1. Your Body Has A Special Function!
  - "Know Ye Not That Your Bodies Are The Members Of Christ?"
    - This Is The First Truth / Principle That We Need To Know:
      - "Your Bodies Are The Members Of Christ!"
    - Not Just Your Spirit / Soul Your Body As Well!
      - When You Are Saved:
        - God Redeems All Of You:
          - And Has A Special Function For All Of You!
  - "Your Bodies Are The Members Of Christ!"
    - Your Body Is Part Of Christ's Body!
      - So That Now, Your Body Has A Special Function!
        - "Christians Are Literally Christ's Body On Earth!" (Freddy Fritz)
    - And So We See:
  - The Practice Of Our Function:
    - God Never Gives Us A Doctrine That Is Not Meant To Change Our Direction!

- IE: Looking At A Map To Get Where You Are Going Does No Good If You Don't Follow It!
  - That Is Why The Principles In God's Word Ought To Impact Our Practice!
- The Principle In 6:15 "Your Bodies Are The Members Of Christ!"
  - Needs To Impact Our Practice!
    - "Shall I Then Take The Members Of Christ, And Make Them The Members Of An Harlot? God Forbid!" Or "May It Never Be!"
- What You Do With Your Body Matters!
  - If You Are A Christian:
    - Your Body Is Part Of The Body Of Christ!
  - And If You Are Involved In Any Kind Of Immorality:
    - You Are Actually Misusing & Even Stealing What Rightfully Belongs To God!
- Your Body Has A Special Function!
  - So What Are We To Do?
- The Purpose Of Our Function:
  - 6:20 "Therefore Glorify God In Your Body, And In Your Spirit, Which Are God's!"
- \* Second Principle In 6:16-18:
- 2. Your Body Has A Special Fastener!
  - **IE:** A Fastener Is Like Glue! Super Glue / Gorilla Glue Very Strong Bond! God Has Given Us Something Very Special To Be Like A Glue In Marriage! And That Is The Sexual Union!
    - According To Hebrews 13:4 "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled!"
      - This "Glue" Was Designed By God & Given By God To The Very First Married Couple Adam & Eve:
        - So That They Could "Cleave" To Each Other & Be "Joined" To Each Other In A "One Flesh" Relationship!
    - But What Happens When You "Join" Your Body To Someone Else Apart From God's Design?
      - 6:16 "He Which Is Joined To An Harlot Is One Body!"
      - Through Fornication, You Actually Give Away More Of Yourself Each Time!
        - Because Sex Is Not Just A Physical Act!
          - It Is An Emotional & Even A Spiritual Act!
    - Those Who Are Involved In Immorality:
      - Think It Is Just Temporary & For Physical Pleasure! But It Is So Much More!
        - Ask David (Bathsheba) & Judah (Tamar)!
      - Any Kind Of Immorality Takes What God Made Special & Sacred & Turns It Into A Stain!
        - And So We See:
  - The Practice Of Our Fastener:
    - Again The Principle Found In 6:16-17 Ought To Impact Our Practice!
      - What Are We To Do?
    - 6:18 "Flee Fornication!"
      - A Command! Flee / Escape / Avoid!
        - Reminds Of Proverbs 4:15 "Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away!"
      - Serious Sin (And Every Kind Of Immoral Thought & Behavior Is Serious Sin) Requires Serious & Swift Action!
        - "Flee Fornication!"
      - Example In The Life Of Joseph!
        - Genesis 39:12-18 Literally / Physically Had To Flee From The Temptation With Potiphar's Wife!
    - The Rest Of 6:18 Gives Us Even More Reason To "Flee"!
      - "Every Sin That A Man Doeth Is Without The Body; But He That Committeth Fornication Sinneth Against His Own Body!"
        - What Does This Mean?
      - All Sin Is Serious!
        - But Not Every Sin Involves Your Body In The Same Detrimental Way!
      - But Any Kind Of Fornication Sexual Immorality:
        - Is An Abuse Of Your Own Body!
          - And God's Design & Purpose For Your Body!
        - And These Kinds Of Sin, Like No Other, Can Lead To:
          - Spiritual Defilement!

- Public Dishonor!
- And Even Physical Disease!
- This Is Why We Still Need To "Flee Fornication":
  - In This Immoral Culture, Country & Community In Which We Live!
- Your Body Has A Special Fastener!
  - So What Are We To Do?
- The Purpose Of Our Fastener:
  - 6:20 "Therefore Glorify God In Your Body, And In Your Spirit, Which Are God's!"
- \* Third Principle In 6:19-20:
- 2. Your Body Has A Special Fellowship!
  - The Third Truth / Principle That We Need To Know:
    - "Your Body Is The Temple Of The Holy Ghost!"
      - The Temple Was The Sacred Place Of The Presence Of God!
    - In The Old Testament:
      - It Was In The Tabernacle & The Temple!
    - In The New Testament:
      - It Is In The Lives & Bodies Of His People!
        - And Like The Shekinah Glory Would Fill The Tabernacle & Temple:
          - This Is What God Seeks To Do & Eventually Will Do In You!
    - Here We See The Indwelling Of Your Body!
      - "Of The Holy Ghost Which Is In You!" (6:19)
      - Isn't This What Jesus Promised In John 14:16-17:
        - "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; / Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you!"
    - We Also See The Interest In Your Body!
      - "And Ye Are Not Your Own!" (6:19)
        - Why? "For Ye Are Bought With A Price!"
      - If You Have Been Saved:
        - It Is Because Jesus Came To Buy You Out Of Your Slavery To Your Self & Your Sin!
          - 1 Peter 1:19 "With the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot!"
    - Now Your Body Has A Special Fellowship!
      - You Have A Special Fellowship!
        - And That Is Why We Can See:
  - The Practice Of Our Fellowship:
    - This Principle Needs To Impact Your Practice!
    - This Needs To Be A Resolution In Your Life!
      - "I Will Glorify God In My Body!"
        - This Morning "Yield Yourself Unto God!"
          - Because You Are Special To God! All Of You!
    - And This Applies To Each One Of Us!
      - Because Temptation To Immorality Knows No Bounds!
      - This Is Not Just A Young Person's Issue!
        - Christians Of All Ages Young & Old Face This Temptation!
      - This Is Not Just A Man's Issue!
        - Christians Of Both Genders Men & Women Face This Temptation!
      - This Is Not Just A Married Person's Issue!
        - Christians Of All Conditions Married & Single Face This Temptation!

## **Conclusion:**

- So Make This Resolution Yourself!
  - Your Body Has Been Given:
    - A Special Function / Fastener / Fellowship!
  - So "Glorify God In Your Body & In Your Spirit!"

## 2. And This Is How:

- You Will Be Able To:

- Fulfill The Spirit Of The Seventh Commandment: - And Be Faithful:

- Even As God Is Faithful!

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