

Do Not Commit Adultery

Just like the Israelites, there are lowercase-g gods all around us, influencing our priorities, our morality, even our eternity. When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, He wasn't just handing down a list of do's and don'ts, He was providing a plan to battle the lowercase-g gods in our lives.



INTRODUCTION

This week, we look at the 7th commandment: do not commit adultery. Although the word “adultery” by definition addresses married couples, this commandment applies to all of us, whether we’re single or have a spouse. When we strive for sexual purity and personal holiness, we discover that following the 7th commandment is a more satisfying pleasure than the lowercase-g god of pleasure can ever give.

STARTER QUESTION

1. Marriage is part of God’s plan to increase our personal holiness. How does your spouse make you a better person? How have you observed married couples making each other better?

INTO THE WORD

2. 1 Thessalonians 4:6 tells us that sexual purity seeks the good of others. Pastor David emphasized that if we followed the 7th commandment, it would lead to strong marriages, which would lead to a strong church, which would lead to a strong city and beyond. What do you think are some specific ways we would see this changing our communities?
3. Read Matthew 5:27-30. Pastor David explained that Jesus didn’t intend us to take the end of this passage literally. What is Jesus asking us to do when he says to tear out our right eye or cut off our right hand?
4. Read James 4:7 and 1 Corinthians 6:18. How do we resist the devil? What are some ways we can force a distraction and flee from sexual sin?

APPLICATION

5. As we go about our day-to-day lives, what are some ways we can strive to live with sexual purity?
6. As followers of Jesus, we are called to personal holiness—to be set apart from the world around us. What are some obstacles that make it difficult to live lives that are different from those of non-believers? What can we do to overcome those obstacles?
7. Pastor David explained that pursuing “oneness” in marriage involves being selfless and in a constant posture of forgiveness. If you are married, are there areas in your marriage where you can exercise greater sacrifice and forgiveness? If you are single, are there other relationships in your life where you can adopt a more selfless and forgiving posture?

PRAYER

Father, thank You for your forgiveness when we commit sexual sin and for Your unconditional love for each of us. Help us to recognize the areas in our lives where we give in to the god of pleasure, and give us the strength to fight lust. As we pursue personal holiness by following Your commands, may we honor each other and Your will. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.